

Region 2 of the American Iris Society

NEWSLETTER

SPRING 2021

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*Spuria 'Elfin Sunshine' (Jenkins, 1998)
The Eric Nies Medal winner 2008*

Who We Are

Region 2 of the American Iris Society

Officers

President & RVP

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

Vice President

Neil Houghton - images@irises.org

Secretary

Kate Brewitt – just1moreiris@gmail.com

Treasurer

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

Committee Chairpersons

Archives

Dorothy Stiefel – irisacher@aol.com
Spencer NY 14883
(607) 589-7465

Bylaws – Position Open

Awards & Exhibitions

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

Judges Training

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

Membership - Vaughn Sayles (See Treasurer)

Newsletter Editor and Webmaster

Kate Brewitt – just1moreiris@gmail.com

Youth Committee - Position Open

Affiliate Chairpersons

Capital-Hudson Iris Society (CHIS)

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

Greater Rochester Iris Society (GRIS)

Cara Hutchings – thehutchings@mac.com
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
Cheektowaga, NY 14227-3140
(716) 668-1789



'Light Shimmer' (T. Huber, 2010)

RVP Message

By Kathryn Mohr, President and AIS Region 2 RVP

Greetings Iris Lovers



Even though spring is still months away, as the days grow longer, I begin to dream of warmer weather and the iris season. We must acknowledge how the COVID-19 pandemic has affected our lives. It is difficult to predict when it will be advisable to resume normal society activities.

“Safe” outdoor events such as socially distanced picnics with BYO food and beverage and garden visits should be possible once warmer weather arrives.

We can showcase our iris gardens by participating in a virtual iris show. For inspiration, look at the ONIS 2020 show report on pages 11 and 12 of the Fall 2020 Region 2 Newsletter.

Region 2 has done a wonderful job of adapting to online activities. The 2020 annual fall meeting by Zoom was well-attended. The highlight of the day, attended by many AIS members from the US, Canada, and Australia, was a Siberian Iris presentation by Bob Hollingworth. In December Barry Blyth presented an overview of his career as a hybridizer. In March GRIS will sponsor a talk by Patrick Spence on Japanese irises. *(See page 11 for details. - ed)*

Increasing membership and participation is an ongoing goal of the region. How did you learn about AIS or your local affiliate? Does the region need a social media account in addition to the Region 2 website? Is there a social media application you prefer? Send your ideas to me kemohrke@aol.com.

Snow is predicted for today and tomorrow. I think I will spend some time looking at iris catalogs.

Fondly, Kathryn



Screen print from Bob Hollingworth's presentation during the October Region 2 AGM.

2020 Tall Bearded Iris Symposium

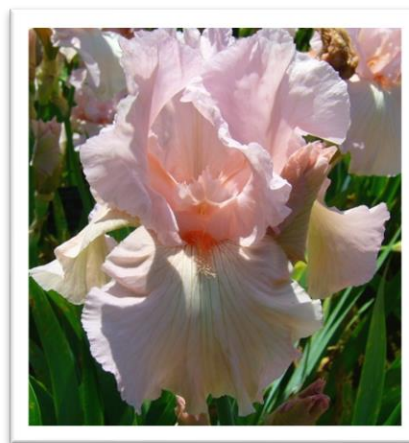
(American Iris Society Selections vs Region 2 Favorites)

Thank you to everyone who participated in the 2020 AIS Tall Bearded Iris Symposium. This year most of us were able to view tall bearded irises only in our own gardens. All the same, you took the time to share your views on the irises you did see. It is important for our regional members to vote so we can have a fair representation in the national results.

All the irises selected are award winners of one type or another. Ten are American Dykes Memorial Medal winners (DM), these being voted the best in their class while 'Clarence' and 'Ink Patterns' both won the Wister Medal (WM), and 'Immortality' received an Award of Merit (AM). In fact, for three years running 'Immortality' has been the number one choice for Region 2 members. It is a lovely ruffled white iris and if it happens to rebloom in your garden, well, even more reason for it to be one of your favourites.

If you are thinking of adding to your TB collection this year, you might want to consider one of these beauties. More pictures can be found on the AIS WIKI: <http://wiki.irises.org>

<u>AIS Ranking</u>	<u>Region 2 Ranking</u>	<u>Cultivar</u>	<u>Hybridizer</u>
14	1	Immortality (AM 1990)	Zurbrigg, 1982
10	1	Stairway To Heaven (DM 2000)	Lauer, 1993
43	1	Vanity (DM 1982)	Hager, 1975



<u>AIS Ranking</u>	<u>Region 2 Ranking</u>	<u>Cultivar</u>	<u>Hybridizer</u>
18	2	Beverly Sills (DM 1985)	Hager, 1979
30	2	Stepping Out (DM 1968)	Schreiner, 1964

(see pictures on next page)



From left to right, 'Beverly Sills and 'Stepping Out'

<u>AIS Ranking</u>	<u>Region 2 Ranking</u>	<u>Cultivar</u>	<u>Hybridizer</u>
24	3	Clarence (WM 2000)	Zurbrigg, 1991
12	3	Florentine Silk (DM 2012)	Keppel, 2005
5	3	Gypsy Lord (DM 2015)	Keppel, 2006
50	3	Ink Patterns (WM 2013)	Johnson, 2007
3	3	Jesse's Song (DM 1990)	Williamson, 1983
21	3	Splashacata (DM 2005)	Tasco, 1998
4	3	Thornbird (DM 1997)	Byers, 1989
54	3	Yaquina Blue (DM 2001)	Schreiner, 1992



From left to right, 'Clarence' and 'Florentine Silk'



From left to right, 'Gypsy Lord', 'Ink Patterns' and 'Jesse's Song'



From left to right, 'Splashacata', 'Thornbird' and 'Yaquina Blue'

New Iris Reticulatas from Alan McMurtrie

Report from Alan McMurtrie with additional notes by Kate Brewitt

Reticulatas are the harbingers of spring in our Ontario garden. When they start to poke their heads through the barely thawed soil in March, I can be found wandering the garden, eyes cast downward, as if looking for lost treasure. If the neighbors were watching, I am sure they would think I had lost my mind instead. Terry and I have many of Alan's reticulatas, the earliest bloomer being 'Eyecatcher' which multiplies profusely. Consequently, it is scattered throughout our garden. 'Spot On' and 'Sea Breeze' are two others that stop me in my tracks so I can take a closer second look.

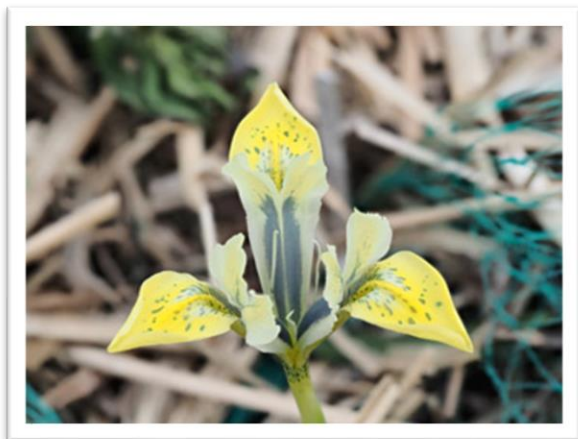
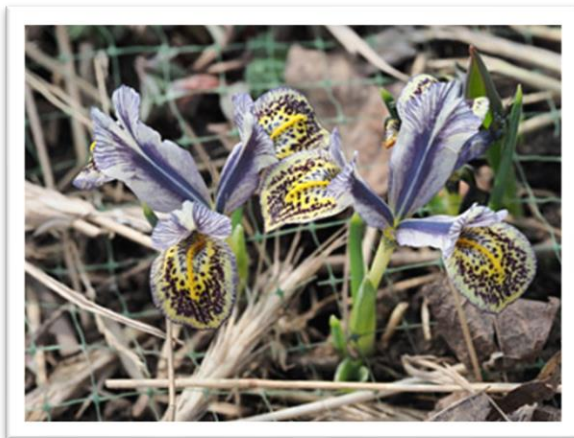
In early 2021 Alan sent me an email with pictures and notes on some of his newer reticulatas taken during a trip to Holland in early 2020. Because these irises signal a departure of the snow and the beginning of spring, I asked Alan if I could share parts of the email with Region 2 readers. Fortunately for us, he agreed. Read on...

Alan's 2020 Trip to Europe

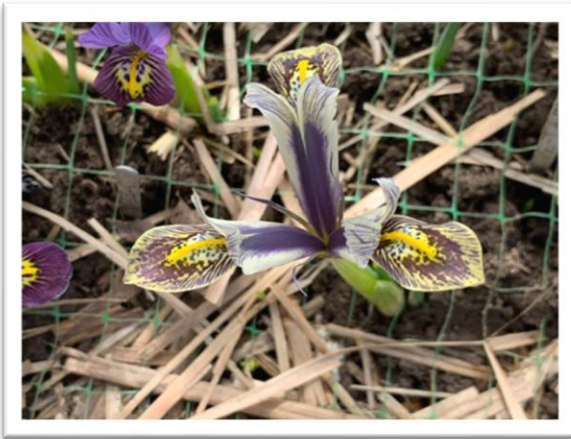
2020 was my 13th year visiting Holland to see my Reticulata Iris hybrids blooming in the field. Unfortunately, bloom was a bit behind, so I did not see the massive bloom I often see. Also, a hare (large rabbit) was eating a fair number of the flowers in the field where the bulbs were planted – we will be using that same field again this growing season (2020/21). The good news is the bulbs seem to have done well after the disastrous 2019 (2018/19 growing season) – 2019 bloom had been particularly good, but conditions after Easter were perfect to allow disease to spread like wildfire. We have never had problems quite like that. Certain changes were made to allow more of the rice-grain size bulblets to be harvested. I look forward to finding out how much of each variety the grower can plant this Fall.

Introduction Notes

'Leopard' (12-IO-1) (below left) bloomed well (its 4th year of bloom), though as often happens when a variety has been growing intensely in a spot for several years, there were issues with this year's increase. From pictures of the bulbs the grower sent me in October, it will bloom in Holland next year. I am glad to report this Fall we received a few pieces of tetraploid material from the lab in Holland, and more are to be delivered next Fall. So hopefully I should see the tetraploid version in bloom in Holland in 2023. It will be 12 years after that, that Leopard can be introduced – yes, building up stock takes MANY years; especially if it is a variety that is expected to be popular. As shown in the photo of 'Leopard' below right, the "orange" fades as the flowers age.



"09 in 2015" (left) continues to do well. It first bloomed in 2018 and had obviously been missed when about ½ of the 2009 seedling area was cleared to help make room for 2015 seed. In 2020 this same clone bloomed in the 2009 area; however its tag was blank (meaning, it would have been found when things were being moved, but at the time I was not able to identify which cross it had been from – so its parentage continues to be a mystery).

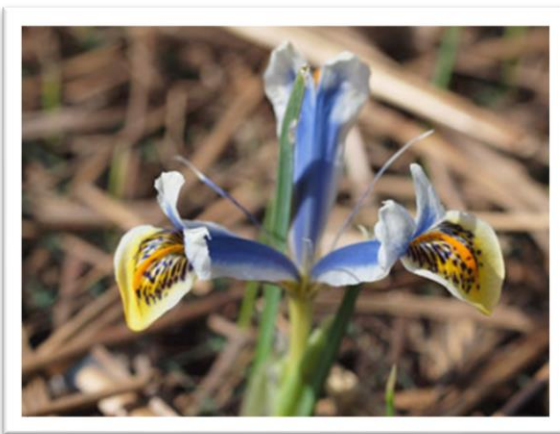


13-FI-3 (left) bloomed for the first time this year – a unique pattern. The light-yellow wash on the falls is interesting.

14-HM-1 (below left) is cute/unusual for having light blue standards; though in this first bloom they were not all constantly shaped. The goal would be to get a hybrid with proper standards, and a significantly different colour from the rest of the flower. Imagine if ‘Leopard’ had proper (“normal”) standards that were, for example, bright lemon yellow. Speaking of bright yellow, 14-KV-1 (below right), which bloomed for the first-time last year, is quite showy, but a bit on the small size. Converting it to tetraploid might make it a more reasonable size, but for now that is not in the cards.



‘Tequila Sunrise’ (below left) “knocks my socks off” while 12-Which? (below right) is interesting.



If you are interested in more information and/or pictures of Alan’s hybridizing efforts check out his website, www.reticulata.com. Want to buy? The following vendors sell reticulatas including some of Alan’s.

US - Brent and Becky’s Bulbs www.bloominbucks.com – AIS will receive cash for every order.

US - John Scheepers Beauty from Bulbs – www.johnscheepers.com

Canada – Botanus - www.botanus.com – fall catalogue

Canada – Phoenix Perennials – www.phoenixperennials.com – fall catalogue

In Memory of Judy Tucholski-Zon

By Maria Gerbracht, WNYIS



I met Judy when she became a member of the Western New York Iris Society (WNYIS). Judy had just retired from teaching Kindergarten. She admired the flower design I had made for the refreshment table: "I want to learn how to arrange flowers." she said. So, I invited her to join my club, the Town and Country Garden Club. That summer she attended beginner design workshops and she quickly grasped the basics. She then joined Ikebana International Chapter 50, a local group, where she took enough floral design lessons to become a certified instructor in Ichiyo.

While with the WNYIS she served twice as the president, (2006 to 2007 and 2011 to 2013) and because she was a talented horticulturist, she served as an American Iris Society Garden/Exhibition Judge. She compiled the WNYIS annual Iris Show schedule and served as Show Chair several times. *(It should also be noted that in 2006 Judy was awarded the Irwin A. Conroe Distinguished Service Award by AIS Region 2. - ed)* As a member

of the Western New York Hosta Society, she was listed in the open garden directory and soon welcomed many visitors to her distinctive garden featuring a collection of irises and hostas.

As a member of the Town and Country Garden Club, Judy served as treasurer and twice as President. Every summer she and I entered the flower design and horticulture divisions in the National Garden Club, Inc. - District 8 sponsored Erie County Fair Flower Show. Soon Judy served on the Flower Show Board, a position she held for 14 years. Many of us remember Judy and husband Bob Zon at the fair helping set up the show with Judy giving design advice to exhibitors. As her talents as a designer advanced, she became a National Garden Club Master Flower Show Judge.

Once Judy volunteered as a District 8 Committee Chair, she quickly became the District Treasurer, and not much later she was our District Director from 2009 to 2011. Of course, she also held a couple of committee chairmanships on the New York State Federated Garden Clubs Board, and she was a State and National Life Member.

When Babbidean Huber persuaded the National Garden Club Board to hold the 2012 National Convention in Buffalo New York, she asked Judy to be her Assistant Chairman because she had been a dependable decision maker as District 8 Treasurer. Together they executed the most financially successful national convention. Mary Brummer, District Judges Council Chairman, also remembers the National Flower Show at that convention as fantastic. Judy then dedicated herself to chairing flower shows: The Fair, Plantasia and the last District show sponsored by the Judges Council in June 2017. But mostly she taught design workshops to encourage new show exhibitors.

Judy will be remembered as someone who was reliable and supportive. She shared her time and talents generously, especially as a teacher of flower arranging.

The Irwin A. Conroe Distinguished Service Award

Presented by Kathryn Mohr, RVP

The Irwin A. Conroe Distinguished Service Award is given to recognize a person who has served Region 2 of the American Iris Society in an exceptional way. This year's award honors Neil Houghton.

Neil can be described in one word: enthusiastic. He has a deep passion for AIS and Region 2. Neil has shared ideas with all the Affiliates within Region 2 relating to iris culture, iris photography, increasing iris sales, advertisement pamphlets, free AIS programs, and increasing membership. His AIS relationships have helped provide Region 2 with excellent fall annual meeting presenters, judges training events, and silent auction irises.

He is an active member and booster of the Greater Rochester Iris Society. While he was Region 2 Membership Chair from 2014 to 2017, he designed a new member handbook. In the past year he has led with great patience and leadership the effort to develop on-line capabilities for Region 2 meetings and judges training events.

Neil has been an AIS member since 2013. Currently, he is a Director of the American Iris Society. He serves as a truly knowledgeable Image Coordinator for AIS.

We gratefully present the 2020 Conroe Award and our thanks to Neil Houghton.



Upcoming Region 2 Monthly Zoom Meetings



AIS Region 2 has scheduled monthly Zoom meetings for 2021. Some meetings will be Board meetings, others will be social gatherings where you can catch up with your Region 2 iris friends or take in a virtual presentation.

All members will receive an email invitation with details in advance of the meeting. If you are interested, register and you will receive a zoom confirmation with a link so you can log into the meeting. If you need assistance using the zoom program Neil Houghton, our Technology Consultant, can provide you with help. He can be reached at images@irises.org.

Meetings are scheduled for the first Tuesday of every month. **Start time is 7:30 PM Eastern Time.**

Our first meeting is March 2, 2021 – Combined with Greater Rochester Iris Society's monthly meeting. Patrick Spence of Cascadia Iris Garden in Lake Stevens, Washington will give a presentation on Japanese Irises. Meeting start: 7:30 PM, Presentation start: 8:00 PM

The dates for the remainder of the year are as follows. Mark your calendars now.

April 6, 2021

May 4, 2021

June 8, 2021

July 6, 2021

August 3, 2021

September 7, 2021

October 5, 2021 – Annual Region 2 Board Meeting

October 23, 2021 – Annual Region 2 General Meeting

November 2, 2021

December 7, 2021

Recent Iris Intros from Region 2 Hybridizers

Check out the [Chapman Iris](#) and [Trails End Iris Gardens](#) websites for details on how to order these and other recent introductions from AIS Region 2 Hybridizers, Chuck Chapman and Robert Granatier.



TB 'Canadian Rerun'
(Chapman, 2020)



BB 'Rocky Mountain Low'
(Granatier, 2021)

Capital-Hudson Iris Society (CHIS)

For details of upcoming events in 2021, contact one of the CHIS officers for details.



Linda Knipper tallying bids at the 2018 Region 2 AGM



Joanna Doggett (left front), Margot Heck (left back), Kathryn Mohr, E.J. Mattson, Euthemia Matsoukas and Dan Maier (back of his head)

CHIS Officers:

CHIS 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 Chairs:

Kathryn Mohr - kemohrke@aol.com - 518 952-4995,

Joanna Doggett - joy_loudon@yahoo.com.



Pictured right, Don Salhoff and Joanne Maier at the 2018 Region 2 AGM hosted by CHIS.

Greater Rochester Iris Society (GRIS)

Submitted by Cara Hutchings, Affiliate Chair

The Greater Rochester Iris Society is planning to be mostly virtual this year, but we do have a few in-person events happening.



Our first meeting will be held on March 2, a Tuesday night, where we pre-empted the regular Region 2 meeting to host Patrick Spence, a hybridizer at Cascadia Gardens in Lake Stevens, Washington. His presentation is titled “Iris Ensata: The Japanese Irises”.

(Pictured left Patrick’s 2021 introduction ‘Barbara Said So’.)

Our April meeting will be held at the regular time, 2 pm on April 11. It will again be a Zoom meeting. One of our new members, Maureen Dunphy, will be giving a talk about Gypsy Moths. The population is on the upswing in our area, after 25 years of a downswing. So, please sign up (contact Neil Houghton at images@irises.org) and learn how to protect your trees, as well as a little history of the little buggers.

April 15 through July 1 will be our virtual iris show. We will be taking pictures of all our beautiful blooms, and our iris will be judged that way. We are still uncomfortable with having a live show, as our member population is on the more mature side, and it is extremely hard to social distance while judging iris. A schedule is in the works and should be done by the end of March so we can get started taking pictures of our iris. Contact me for more details.

We are hoping to have our annual sale this year, details have yet to be worked out, but we will keep you updated.

Our September meeting is being worked on as well; we would welcome any suggestions you might have.

On October 10 we will be having an in-person meeting with Diane Henderson, who will be presenting a great talk and slideshow on hummingbirds. The meeting will take place at our regular location, St. John’s Episcopal Church Hall, 11 Episcopal Ave. in Honeoye Falls at 2 pm. Hope to see you there!

GRIS Officers:

President: Cara Hutchings - thehutchings@mac.com

Vice President: Neil Houghton - images@irises.org

Secretary/Treasurer: Nate Hutchings - thehutchings@mac.com

Ontario Iris Society (ONIS)

Submitted by Kate Brewitt, Affiliate Secretary



Every Saturday from March 6 to March 27 – Virtual Innisfil Seedy Saturdays featuring a Marketplace, Learn Hub, and Innisfil Seed Library - 10 am to 3 pm.

The Learning Hub will offer webinars and other learning opportunities culminating on Saturday, March 27 with live webinars and more. The Marketplace will connect you with regional seed companies and related groups and businesses. This event is hosted by the Innisfil Seed Library in partnership with the Innisfil ideaLAB & Library. Check out the activities at [Innisfil Seedy Saturdays — Innisfil Seed Library](#).

May 1 to July 11 – Virtual Flower Show

Get your cameras ready! ONIS will have another Virtual Flower Show in 2021. This show is open to EVERYONE! Contact Terry Laurin (tlaurin@rogers.com) to receive details on how to enter including a copy of the show schedule.

July/August – Due to the success of last year's On-line Rhizome sale, ONIS is planning to hold it again in 2021. The Board is currently looking at potential vendors. Contact Terry Laurin if you are interested in receiving a copy of the list of irises in the offering. Canadian orders only please.

Otherwise, join us on Facebook, [Ontario Iris Society | Facebook](#). Share your gardening experiences, upload pictures from your garden and meet new friends. We have had 60 new friends from around the world join our group since March 2020.

For more details on these events visit our website at [Ontario Iris Society \(google.com\)](#).

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

Western New York Iris Society (WNYIS)

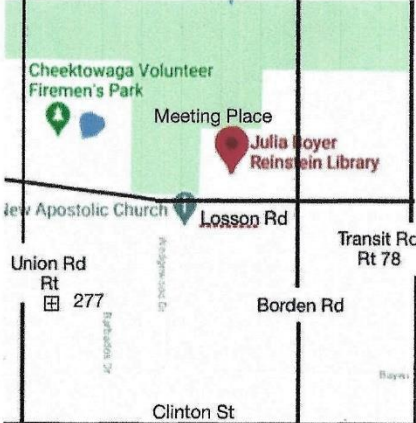
Submitted by Marilee Farry, Affiliate Chair

We are ready with a beautiful brochure (by David Baehre) to start recruitment and the 2021 program however Western NY is crippled by the COVID-19 virus and presently we are unable to meet. Vaccinations are slow in coming so the best we can do is hope that we will be able to meet by June in time for our Iris Show! If not, hopefully we can get together outside for garden visitations when the irises bloom.

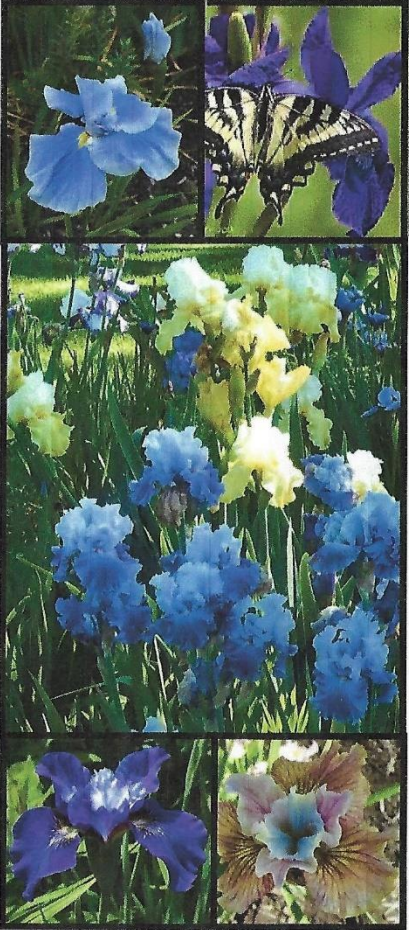
Until then, stay safe and to take good care of yourselves. Better days will come!

Come Join us at the ...this is where we meet.


Julia B. Reinstein Library
1030 Losson Road
Cheektowaga, NY 14227



The Western New York Iris Society




An Affiliate of Region 2 of the American Iris Society



- Come to a meeting; the public is always welcome.
- Attend our Iris Show and our IRIS Sale.
- Ask us about growing iris, it is what we do!

*Flowers,
Friends,
Fun!*



**Benefits for joining our...
Western New York Iris Society**

- New gardening friends
- Learn from experienced iris members
- Help prepare our Annual Iris Show and Sale
- Get great iris at bargains

American Iris Society
P.O. Box 177
Deleon Springs, FL 32130
Phone and Fax 386-277-2057
email: aismemsec@iris.org
Website: www.iris.org

When you Join the American Iris Society you will automatically become a member of Western New York Iris Society - We DO NOT have Local Dues
for INFORMATION or APPLICATION to join
Call Marilee 716-668-1789

WNYIS Officers:

President: Marilee Farry – farmare@aol.com

Vice President: Betty Schnellinger – bettyschnell@icloud.com

Secretary: David Baehre – dwbfarm@gmail.com

Treasurer: Annette Kuhn – akuhn@rich.com

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 February 1, 2021

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

Please note that many changes have occurred in the Region 2 Judges and Student Judges Roster for 2021:

John Colley is stepping down as an AIS Judge. John started serving the American Iris Society as a Garden/Exhibition Judge in 2007. John was eligible for judging advancement last fall; he has been honored with Retired Master Judge status.

Maria Gerbracht has requested and been honored with Retired Master Judge status. Maria started serving the American Iris Society as a Garden/Exhibition Judge in 1987 and then as a Master Judge in 1999.

Donna James has requested and been honored with Retired Master Judge status. Donna started serving the American Iris Society as a Garden/Exhibition Judge in 2000 and then as a Master Judge in 2014.

Maureen Mark has requested and been honored with Retired Master Judge status. Maureen started serving the American Iris Society as a Garden/Exhibition Judge in 2000 and then as a Master Judge in 2014.

E.J. Mattson is stepping down as an AIS Judge. E.J. started serving the American Iris Society as a Garden/Exhibition Judge in 2011.

Vaughn Sayles is stepping down as an AIS Judge. Vaughn started serving the American Iris Society as a Garden/Exhibition Judge in 2007. Vaughn was eligible for judging advancement last fall; he has been honored with Retired Master Judge status.

Janette Smith started serving the American Iris Society as a Garden/Exhibition Judge in 2007. Janette was eligible for judging advancement last fall; she has been honored with Master Judge status.

Mary J. (M.J.) Urist is stepping down as an AIS Judge. M.J. started serving the American Iris Society as a Garden/Exhibition Judge in 2014.

Region 2 mourns the passing of two of its American Iris Society accredited judges during the past year:

Judith Tucholski-Zon, who moved to Illinois in 2017, died on July 16, 2020. Judy became a Garden/Exhibition judge in 1997 and a Master Judge in 2011.

Raymond (Sandy) Ives died on October 13, 2020. Sandy became a Garden/Exhibition Judge in 1999, a Master Judge in 2013, and a Retired Master Judge in 2019.

2021 JUDGES TRAINING COURSE TENTATIVELY SCHEDULED IN REGION 2

Due to ongoing COVID-19 restrictions, the American Iris Society national convention has been cancelled for 2021 and Region 2 meetings and activities are currently “virtual” in nature. It is hoped that a “socially distanced” judges training session might be possible near the end of the 2021 iris bloom season in Region 2.

An in-garden judges training course has been “tentatively” scheduled on Saturday, June 26 from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. The course would be taught by AIS Master Judge Joanne Bassett in her home garden in East Aurora, New York. The topic would be “Evaluating Irises – Before, Now and After Bloom.” Irises would be evaluated for a variety of characteristics including vigor, state of foliage, increases, bud count, and the garden worth of an individual cultivar. Additional information on the course will be provided via e-mail at a later date.

PLEASE NOTE: Judges training sessions must be approved in advance by the Region 2 Judges Training Chairperson. Please let Wendy Roller know of any additional judges training sessions being proposed within the region during the year 2021.

2021 Show Dates and Region 2 Awards

Marilee Farry, Show Chair

As restrictions imposed on gatherings continue in parts of Canada and the US three affiliates, Capital-Hudson Iris Society, Greater Rochester Iris Society and Ontario Iris Society, have decided they will not be having an in-person flower show this year. The flower show sponsored by the Western New York Iris Society is currently tentative, but they have their fingers crossed!

June - Western New York Iris Society (WNYIS)

Date and Location TBD

AIS Region 2 Award: The Magdalen Award – awarded to the highest placed Median iris.

Show Chair: Marilee Farry – for up-to-date information email farmare@aol.com.



AIS Region 2 Flower Show Entries

REGION 2 OF THE AMERICAN IRIS SOCIETY ANNUAL FALL MEETING
MINUTES FOR THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
OCTOBER 6, 2020 AT 7:30 PM VIA ZOOM

1. Call to order

Meeting called to order at 7:35 pm with Regional Vice President, Kathryn Mohr, presiding.

2. Roll call: Officers, Affiliate Chairpersons. Committee Chairs

Kathryn Mohr – RVP and President

Vaughn Sayles – Treasurer, Membership Chair

Kate Brewitt – Acting Secretary, Newsletter Editor and Webmaster

Linda Knipper – Capital-Hudson Iris Society (CHIS) President

Cara Hutchings – Greater Rochester Iris Society (GRIS) President

Terry Laurin – Ontario Iris Society (ONIS) President

Marilee Farry – Western New York Iris Society (WNYIS) President, Awards & Exhibition Chair

Wendy Roller - Judges Training Chair

Neil Houghton – Technology Consultant

Other Attendees

Joanne Bassett, Carolyn Schaffner

Absent

Dorothy Stiefel - Archives

3. RVP Report

Kathryn has appointed Neil Houghton as Technology Consultant.

4. Additions/corrections to the minutes of October 5, 2019 board meeting

Motion made by Cara Hutchings to accept the 2019 Board Meeting minutes as circulated. Motion carried.

5. Treasurer's Report and 2020 Budget

Vaughn Sayles reported that as of October 1, 2020 the account balances for Region 2 are as follows: Checking: \$2,774.57, Savings: \$3,626.17, and Certificate of Deposit: \$3,619.57.

Since January 1, 2020 we have received \$70.05 in revenue

Savings: \$ 1.35, Certificate of Deposit: \$6.77, Amazon Smile: \$11.93 and Donation: \$50.00 from WNYIS.

We have expended \$351.86

Judges Training Postage: \$15.80, Newsletter Postage: \$13.41, Fall Meeting: Zoom license for 2020 -- \$149.90, and Website Fees for 2020 -- \$168.35.

Motion carried at Board Meeting on September 1, 2020 to present to the General Membership the same budget for 2021 that was proposed in 2020.

6. Audit Committee

Terry Laurin reported that the Treasurer's report was accepted by the Audit Committee.

7. Membership

Vaughn Sayles reported that as of October 1, 2020 in addition to four affiliate memberships and five organizational memberships there are 101 members of the American Iris Society residing in Region 2.

AIS Youth have full voting rights.

ACTION: Need to ask AIS if organizations have same voting rights.

8. Awards & Exhibitions

Marilee Farry reported that due to COVID-19 there were no accredited iris shows in the region in 2020. Motion carried at the Board meeting on September 1, 2020 to keep the 2020 Show rotation and award choices for the 2021 shows.

ONIS – The Ruth V. Blenis Award

CHIS – The Ethel Anson S. Peckham Award for Historic Iris

GRIS –The William McGarvey Beardless Iris Award

WNYIS –The Magdalen Award

9. Secretary (Acting) Report

On June 13, via email

A motion was made by Kathryn Mohr, after debate, was adopted as follows, that AIS Region 2 spend approximately \$150 to purchase a zoom license.

On August 31, via email

A motion was made by Kathryn Mohr, after debate, was adopted as follows, to adopt the proposed Bylaw amendments as presented by the Bylaw Committee.

September 1, 2020 zoom meeting.

Motion made by Linda Knipper: To send a paper ballot, without a stamped return envelope, to all members who receive paper copies of the newsletter. Motion tabled until the next Board meeting.

Motion made by Linda Knipper: To cancel the 2020 annual meeting via zoom. Motion was not seconded so motion failed.

Motion made by Vaughn Sayles: To present to the General Membership the same budget for 2021 that was proposed in 2020. Motion carried.

Motion made by Marilee Farry: To keep the 2020 Show rotation and award choices for the 2021 shows, should there be one. Motion carried.

September 6, 2020 via email

Motion made by Linda Knipper: To vote on officers, bylaws, and the budget by email/USPS mail. Motion failed.

September 8, 2020 via email

Motion made by Kathryn Mohr: To hold the general membership meeting at 10:30 AM on October 24, 2020. Motion carried.

Carolyn Schaffner raised a point of order saying the RVP could not make a motion. The motion from June 13 was restated by Neil Houghton and carried. The motion from August 31 was restated by Cara Hutchings and carried. The motion from September 8 was deemed unnecessary and was rescinded.

10. Technology Consultant

Neil Houghton discussed zoom meeting invitations.

11. Committee Reports:

There were no updates to the committee reports previously published in the Autumn 2020 newsletter.

12. Affiliate Reports

WNYIS – Marilee Farry reported that WNYIS is focusing on recruitment.

13. Nominating Committee

Cara Hutchings presented the Committee's nominations for the 2020/2021 Officers' positions,
Kathryn Mohr – Regional Vice President (RVP)

Neil Houghton– Assistant RVP
Vaughn Sayles – Treasurer
Kate Brewitt - Secretary

Motion made by Terry Laurin to accept the Nominating Committee report. Motion carried

14. Unfinished Business

Tabled motion from Board Meeting of September 1, 2020 made by Linda Knipper: To send a paper ballot, without a stamped return envelope, to all members who receive paper copies of the newsletter. Motion failed.

15. New Business

- a. Voting method for Annual General meeting on October 24, 2020
Motion made by Marilee Farry to use roll call voting for motions at October 24th's meeting. Motion carried.
- b. Notifying attendees to Annual General meeting of various reports.
Motion made by Cara Hutchings to send meeting registrants a copy of all reports by email before the October 24, 2020 general meeting. Motion carried.

16. Additional business

Details of Judges' Training being offered October 24, 2020 were discussed.

17. Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 9:00 pm.



REGION 2 OF THE AMERICAN IRIS SOCIETY (AIS) ANNUAL FALL MEETING
October 24, 2020
General Meeting Minutes

1. Call to Order and welcome

Meeting called to order at 10:35 am by the Regional Vice President Kathryn Mohr. Everyone was welcomed. Acting secretary will be Kate Brewitt. Neil Houghton thanked for all his hard work setting up the meeting.

2. Roll call: Officers, Affiliate Chairpersons. Committee Chairs

Kathryn Mohr – RVP and President

Vaughn Sayles – Treasurer, Membership Chair

Kate Brewitt – Acting Secretary, Newsletter Editor and Webmaster

Linda Knipper – Capital-Hudson Iris Society (CHIS) President

Cara Hutchings – Greater Rochester Iris Society (GRIS) President

Terry Laurin – Ontario Iris Society (ONIS) President

Marilee Farry – Western New York Iris Society (WNYIS) President, Awards & Exhibition Chair

Wendy Roller - Judges Training Chair

Neil Houghton – Technology Consultant

Other Attendees

Dave Baerhre, Joanne Bassett, Linda Baumgartner, Chuck Chapman, Ronna Feit, EJ Mattson, Donald Salhoff, Patricia Salhoff, Betty Schnellinger, Jan Smith.

3. There were no additions or corrections to the minutes of the October 5, 2019 General Membership Meeting. Kathryn Mohr declared the minutes approved as circulated

4. Affiliate chairs – affiliate chairs did not have any additions to the reports circulated.

5. Committee Reports

a. Archives

Dorothy Stiefel had nothing to report

b. Awards & Exhibitions

Marilee Farry reported that due to COVID-19 there were no accredited iris shows in the region in 2020. The Board of Directors agreed to maintain the 2020 Show rotation and award choices for the 2021 shows.

ONIS – The Ruth V. Blenis Award – show date pending

CHIS – The Ethel Anson S. Peckham Award for Historic Iris – show date pending

GRIS –The William McGarvey Beardless Iris Award – show date pending

WNYIS –The Magdalen Award – show tentatively set for June 5, 2021.

The Irwin A. Conroe Distinguished Service Award was presented to Neil Houghton.

c. Judges Training

Kathryn Mohr read a summary of Wendy Roller's JT report pending her joining the meeting.

d. Bylaws Committee

The committee had two primary goals:

- i. Add videoconferencing and all electronic communication to the official methods by which Regional meetings can be held.
- ii. Make the term limit for the office of secretary consistent with the treasurer's term.

A report with proposed changes was submitted and accepted by the Board of Directors. Voting will take place during New Business.

- e. Newsletter Editor
Kate Brewitt reported that the Spring 2021 edition would be out March 1st.
- f. Treasurer's Report
Vaughn Sayles thanked WNYIS for this year's contribution to Region 2. It was also noted they would be making a contribution in honor of Judy Tucholski-Zon.
- g. Membership
Vaughn Sayles reported that the Region had one new member since his report was circulated.
- h. Technology Consultant
Neil Houghton had no additions to the report circulated.
- i. Webmaster
Kate Brewitt reported that the Region 2 website had 18,670 visits this year. She will continue to look for a new website host.
- j. Youth Committee
Kathryn Mohr reported that this committee needs a chair. In the meantime, she asked that each affiliate report on any youth activities for the newsletter.

Unfinished Business

There was no unfinished business from the floor.

New Business

- 1) Budget for 2021
Vaughn Sayles reported that 2021 budget would remain unchanged from 2020.
Motion made by Cara Hutchings to accept the proposed budget as presented. Motion carried.
- 2) Vote on officers
On behalf of the Nominations Committee, Cara Hutchings presented the selected nominations for the 2020/2021 Officers' positions,
Kathryn Mohr – Regional Vice President (RVP)
Neil Houghton– Assistant RVP
Vaughn Sayles – Treasurer
Kate Brewitt - Secretary
Since there were no nominations from the floor, Kathryn Mohr declared the nominees elected by acclamation.
- 3) Judges Training
Wendy Roller summarized the JT activities for 2020 as follows,
Janette Smith will be listed as an Active Master Judge in 2021. Donna James and Maureen Mark have requested Retired Master Judge status. John Colley and Vaughn Sayles will be listed as Retired Master Judges next year. E.J. Mattson is stepping down as an AIS judge. We thank them for the combined total of 88 years of judging experience. Finally, Region 2 mourns the passing of Judith Tucholski-Zon on July 16, 2020 and Raymond (Sandy) Ives on October 13, 2020.
- 4) Vote on Bylaws
Article VIII, Section 2 – revised to include videoconference as a means for the Board of Directors to do Region business. Also revised to acknowledge different means for storing minutes of

meetings. Motion made by Cara Hutchings to accept the Bylaw Committee's proposed revision. Motion carried.

Article X, Section 4 – revised to include 'roll call' voting during elections. Motion made by Marilee Ferry to accept the Bylaw Committee's proposed revision. Motion carried.

Article VI, Section 2 – revised to make the term limit for the Secretary consistent with the Treasurer's term. Motion made by Cara Hutchings to accept the Bylaw Committee's proposed revision. Motion carried

Adjournment

Kathryn Mohr adjourned the meeting at 11:15 am.



AIS Region 2 Membership Report

Submitted by Vaughn Sayles, Membership Chair

As of 2021, 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 organizational memberships (Brooklyn Botanical Garden (Brooklyn, New York), Cornell University Library (Ithaca, New York), Jardin Botanique de Montreal Bibliotheque (Montreal, Quebec) and the Royal Botanical Garden (Hamilton, Ontario), there are 103 members of the American Iris Society who reside in Region 2.

The following individuals have joined since October 1, 2020. We would like to welcome:
Dawn Friedman (Howard Beach, NY), Terry Duane (Utica, NY), Jesse Jones (Valley View, NY)

Check the status of your AIS Membership by going to www.aislookup.org and search for your last name.

Join the American Iris Society



Full Membership (Basic plus e-membership)

Annual: \$45 US – Single / \$50 US – Dual

Triennial: \$115 US – Single / \$130 US - Dual

Basic Membership (Printed Bulletin, no on-line access)

Annual: \$30 US – Single / \$35 US - Dual

Triennial: \$70 US – Single / \$85 US - Dual

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

[AIS Members – American Iris Society \(irises.org\)](http://irises.org): link to a list of additional membership types.

Treasurer's Report

Region 2 of the American Iris Society

December 31, 2020

Submitted by Vaughn Sayles, Treasurer

As of December 31, 2020, the balances in the bank accounts of Region 2 of the American Iris Society were: checking - \$2,728.02, savings - \$3,626.62, and certificate of deposit - \$3,621.85. Our total assets are \$9,976.49 compared with a total of \$10,302.12 at the end of 2019.

The total revenue received in 2020 was \$279.93. Interest accounted for \$10.85, Affiliate contributions for \$250.00, and Amazon Smile donations for \$19.08. Special thanks go to the Western New York Iris Society for their donation of \$100.00 in memory of Judy Tucholski-Zon and \$50.00 as a contribution and to the Greater Rochester Iris Society for a contribution \$100.00. If you are making purchases through Amazon, please consider participating in *Amazon Smile* and naming Region 2 of the American Iris Society as your charitable organization.

The total expenses for 2020 were \$605.56. These included \$53.70 for the Conroe Award, \$33.61 for mailing expenses for Judges Training, Newsletter and Treasurer, \$149.90 for an annual Zoom license, \$200.00 for a donation to the Society for Siberian Iris in appreciation of Robert Hollingworth's presentation for our 2020 Annual Fall Meeting, and \$168.35 for the Website.

The annual financial audit was performed by the Affiliate Chairpersons and the treasurer submitted information to AIS for the annual IRS filing.

Balances	1/1/2020	12/31/2020
Checking Account	\$3,064.50	\$2,728.02
Savings Account	\$3,624.82	\$3,626.62
Certificate of Deposit	\$3,612.80	\$3,621.85
Total Assets	\$10,302.12	\$9,976.49

Revenue received 2020

Affiliate Contributions	received	\$150.00
CHIS	\$0.00	
GRIS	\$100.00	
ONIS	\$0.00	
WNYIS	\$50.00	
Total	\$150.00	
Interest Income		\$10.85
Savings Account	\$1.80	
Certificate of Deposit	\$9.05	
Total	\$10.85	
Other Revenue		\$119.08
WNYIS – in memory of Judy Tucholski-Zon	\$100.00	
Amazon Smile	\$19.08	
Total	\$119.08	
<u>Total Revenue received 2020</u>		<u>\$279.93</u>

Expenses (2020)	Budgeted 10/5/2019	Expended 12/31/2020	Balance 12/31/2020
Archives	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Awards	\$200.00	\$53.70	\$146.30
Judges Training	\$25.00	\$15.80	\$9.20
Membership	\$10.00	\$0.00	\$10.00
Newsletter (2 issues)	\$150.00	\$13.41	\$136.59
RVP (miscellaneous)	\$10.00	\$0.00	\$10.00
Treasurer	\$10.00	\$4.40	\$5.60
Secretary	\$10.00	\$0.00	\$10.00
Creative Money	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Youth Membership	\$50.00	\$0.00	\$50.00
Fall Meeting	\$1,000.00	\$349.90	\$650.10
Website	\$200.00	\$168.35	\$31.65
Miscellaneous	\$50.00	\$0.00	\$50.00
Totals	\$1,715.00	\$605.56	\$1,109.44

**REGION 2 OF THE AMERICAN IRIS SOCIETY
COMPARISON OF 2020 AND 2021 BUDGETS**

Expenses	Budgeted 2020	Budgeted 2021	Budget Changes
Archives	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Awards	\$200.00	\$200.00	\$0.00
Judges Training	\$25.00	\$25.00	\$0.00
Membership	\$10.00	\$10.00	\$0.00
Newsletter (2 issues)	\$150.00	\$150.00	\$0.00
RVP (miscellaneous)	\$10.00	\$10.00	\$0.00
Treasurer	\$10.00	\$10.00	\$0.00
Secretary	\$10.00	\$10.00	\$0.00
Creative Money	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Youth Membership	\$50.00	\$50.00	\$0.00
Fall Meeting	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00	\$0.00
Website	\$200.00	\$200.00	\$0.00
Miscellaneous	\$50.00	\$50.00	\$0.00
Totals	\$1,715.00	\$1,715.00	\$0.00



The Next Century Begins 'Iris Enchantment'

2022 American Iris Society National Convention
April 11 - 16, 2022



The next century of the AIS begins

**Las Cruces
New Mexico**

The 2021 convention has been rescheduled to 2022 during the week before Easter.

Registration will open sometime in July 2021. Watch the convention website for up-to-date information, [2022 National Convention – AISRegion 23](#).

In the meantime organizers are working on creating a webinar highlighting the convention gardens. The convention hosts, Mesilla Valley Iris Society, hosted the Ariltrek in 2018. The display of Arilbreds were heard as being the best display the attendees have ever seen.

Note that the next two AIS conventions in Dallas and Portland will also be postponed 1 year.

Do you shop on-line? Do you support Region 2 of the American Iris Society? If you shop on Amazon, you will be able to have 0.5% of eligible purchase prices donated to Region 2 of the American Iris Society*. 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 this link [AmazonSmile: You shop. Amazon gives.](#) to log directly into **AMAZON SMILE** and land on the 'Support Region 2 of the American Iris Society' page.

Happy Shopping!

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

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 you can find previous editions of their newsletters?

Did you know you can find previous editions of the Region 2 newsletter?

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

AIS Region 2 website: [Home Page \(aisregion2.org\)](http://aisregion2.org)

Capital-Hudson Iris Society (CHIS)

[CHIS \(aisregion2.org\)](http://aisregion2.org)

Ontario Iris Society (ONIS)

[ONIS \(aisregion2.org\)](http://aisregion2.org)

Greater Rochester Iris Society (GRIS)

[GRIS \(aisregion2.org\)](http://aisregion2.org)

Western New York Iris Society (WNYIS)

[WNYIS \(aisregion2.org\)](http://aisregion2.org)

[Greater Rochester Iris Society | Facebook](#)

[Ontario Iris Society | Facebook](#)

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

American Iris Society Website: [American Iris Society \(irises.org\)](http://irises.org)

AIS Iris Encyclopedia [WebHome < Main < Iris Wiki \(irises.org\)](http://irises.org)
which includes the Hager/Dubose Memorial On-Line Iris Library

[The American Iris Society - YouTube](#) contains the webinars presented by the AIS. Click on 'Subscribe' then click on the bell next to the Subscribe Button to be notified when a new video is uploaded.

[World of Irises \(theamericanirissociety.blogspot.com\)](http://theamericanirissociety.blogspot.com)

The American Iris Society is also on social media,

[The American Iris Society | Facebook](#)

[The American Iris Society \(@TweetAIS\) / Twitter](#)

[The American Iris Society \(@theamericanirissociety\) • Instagram photos and videos](#)

The Newsletter of Region 2 of the American Iris Society is published twice a year and e-mailed free to all members of the American Iris Society residing in Region 2 (New York State, Ontario, and Quebec). Members without e-mail may receive a paper copy by mail upon request. It is the member's responsibility to advise of e-mail changes and to submit a written request for paper copies to the editor. Permission is granted to reproduce articles, with proper attribution, unless otherwise noted. It is appreciated that a copy of the publication is provided to the editor.

COPY DEADLINES

Spring Issue February 1

Fall Issue August 1

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

Editor: Kate Brewitt – just1moreiris@gmail.com

From the Editor's Desk



Hard to believe that it has been a year since I wrote here that 2020 would be a year of celebration. What did Robert Burns say about the best laid schemes of mice and men? Such is life! That said...no predictions this year!

What have you been doing this winter? Despite what the picture to the left may suggest, I did not go ice skating on our local pond. Many days I thought about it but never actually put on my 'vintage' figure skates. The closest I got was standing on a nearby hillside where I took pictures of the socially distanced skaters.

Instead I have been adapting to a new virtual lifestyle. It is remarkable the number of virtual programs being offered by the different organizations. I have been taking advantage of the programs offered by the AIS and our own Region 2 as well as those offered by museums, art galleries, and my local library. These are programs that, pre-pandemic, I would have never seen because travelling to their locations is inconvenient. Check out some of the links provided on page 27 to see what the AIS and Region 2 have to offer.

With our usual winter events cancelled Terry and I decided to germinate some iris seeds. Every year we save the bee pods from our irises in the hopes that one winter we will find the time to germinate them. Well, this was the winter! They are currently experiencing their 'cold treatment' outside in our garden shed. We are hopeful there will be lots of seedlings in the spring.

Speaking of spring, like me, you are probably looking forward to the day when you can get out in your garden without having to bundle up for the inclement weather. I have been looking for signs of the *reticulatas* in areas of the garden where the snow is first to melt, and to my surprise, the tips are already poking through the soil! Spring is around the corner!

Until next time

Kate

just1moreiris@gmail.com



Pictured right: 'Eye Catcher', one of the Iris reticulatas hybridized by Alan McMurtrie.