

Iris Views

January, 2019

for the Western New York Iris Society

offered by Carolyn Schaffner <drsnooks@twc.com>

Officers of the WNYIS 2018-2019

Marilee Farry - President
farmare@aol.com

Maria Gerbracht- Vice
President

mrgerbracht@verizon.net

Velma Szczensy- Secretary
frank123451@icloud.com

Annette Kuhn- Treasurer
akuhn43@yahoo.com

Highlights 2018-19 WNYIS

Sept 30, '18 Election of Officers
October 20, '18 Annual Meeting
November 4, '18 Budget, 2019
February 3, '19 Educational Topic
March 3, '19 Educational Topic
March 21 '19 Plantasia Planning
May 5, '19 Educational Topic
June 1, '19 Annual Iris Show
May/June/July TBA
July 7, '19 Educational Topic
August 11, '19 Sale Preparation
August 24, '19 Annual Iris Sale
September 8, '19 Review / Elections

ALL EDUCATIONAL TOPICS AT:

**Lancaster Library 5466
Broadway, Depew, N.Y.
14086 (683-1120) 1:30 pm
30 Minutes is reserved for
the featured topic at the
beginning of the meeting**



Marilee Farry, (far left) newly elected Western New York Iris Society's President, supervises a judging panel.

MESSAGE FROM YOUR WNYIS PRESIDENT, Marilee Farry

As president of the Western New York Iris Society (WNYIS), I am really excited about the society's plans for 2019. These plans formulated at the September meeting with the Election of Officers. As it turned out, the membership was in a poor state, both physically and emotionally. Change was necessary! As your president drove to Albany for the American Iris Society (AIS) Region-2 Fall Annual Meeting, her resolve was firm. WNYIS could not be host to the 2019 AIS Region-2 Fall Annual Meeting and Recruitment of new members was WNYIS's prime objective.

Many changes have risen out of that objective: a new WNYIS Recruitment Brochure, to be evaluated at the February meeting. Educational presentations on the various classes of irises are scheduled for each meeting with charts and pictures of current irises that grow well in our area. As a result of an email discussion, of an "iris society versus a garden club", it was decided to also extend our presentations to include "a garden topic", such as composting, garden problems that impact western New York, etc. Most of our members are feeling much better following a "surgery", with the passing of the holidays and our members are looking forward to the new year.

NEWS FROM REGION 2

Officers 2018-2019

Kathryn Mohr – Regional Vice President (RVP)

Carolyn Schaffner – Assist RVP

Vaughn Sayles – Treasurer

Kate Brewitt – Secretary

2018 AIS Region 2 awards

Magdalen Award to **Wendy**

Roller,

Ethel Anson S. Peckam Award to

Lyn Hickey

Ruth V. Blenis Award to **Dorothy Stiefel.**

Past RVP pin and a small gift,

Dorothy Stiefel.

Marilee Farry, WNYIS President, presented the award certificates from their 2018 show.

2019 Show dates and Region 2 awards

WNYIS – June 1 – The Ruth V. Blenis Award

ONIS – June 9 – The William McGarvey Beardless Iris Award

CHIS – June 1 – The Ethel Anson S. Peckham Award

GRIS – June 2 – The Magdalen Award

Hudson Valley Iris Daylily Society disbanded in 2018. (Previously, CNYIS - 2016, Southern Tier 2012)

Kate Brewitt read Joanne Maier's report that there are six Youth members in Region 2.

RVP Dorothy Stiefel reported of the passing of Ed Jowett, SOIS President, and their Newsletter Editor. Region 2's RVP will be advised of the group's future.

WNYIS President's message, continued

Our new meeting place is the Lancaster Library, located on Broadway Street in Depew, New York. This meeting place is centrally located and has a large meeting room that can accommodate many people, with parking available in the back. All the meetings will be held there except June 1, which is our IRIS SHOW and that is usually scheduled in a Mall. The other exception is the IRIS SALE which is held at the Erie County and Buffalo Botanical Gardens with the Hosta and Daylily societies. Lots of hard work by the members result in a good Iris Show and a positive Iris Sale. Everyone participates!

During the spring and summer months, we are planning garden visits to each other's gardens as the various classes of iris come into bloom. Notification will be via email to the members. We also hope to schedule a field trip to the Royal Botanical Garden in Hamilton, Ontario, Canada and/or a field trip to Chuck Chapman, an iris hybridizer, in Guelph, Ontario, Canada. Everyone has their passports and car-pooling is the order of the day. Possibly, we could see both in one long day! We'll have to wait and see!

Iris 'Haunted Heart' TB ([Keith Keppel](#), R. 2009) Honorable Mention 2012, [Award of Merit 2014](#); [Wister Medal 2016](#), [American Dykes Medal 2018](#)



Iris 'Swans in Flight' SIB

([Robert Hollingworth](#), R. 2006) Honorable Mention 2009, [Award of Merit 2011](#); [Morgan-Wood Medal 2013](#); [Franklin Cook Cup 2015](#); [American Dykes Medal 2016](#).



Exciting News from the Botans

The Buffalo and Erie County Botanical Gardens, 2655 South Park Ave. has just received \$1.5 million in funding from the Western New York Regional Economic Development Council (WNYREDC) – part of Round VIII of Governor Andrew M. Cuomo’s Regional Council initiative. The funding would allow the first major expansion in its 118-year history to accommodate more visitors and generate additional revenue. On the drawing board is a \$14 million, 36,000-square-foot mostly glass building designed by architect Toshiko Mori for the southwestern side of the conservatory.

The Botanical Gardens plans to demolish several outdated buildings, which would free up the organization to build an continuous building addition that would house a butterfly conservatory, educational classrooms, expanded grow houses, event space, a variety of unique exhibits, a café, and expanded visitor and gift shop, and admissions areas.

Another feature of the building will allow people to look down on the production grow houses and watch horticulturists working on flower and plant exhibits and repotting plants. The expansion would result in the demolition of eight deteriorating green and grow houses, and a garage, some of which were added in 1959.

The conservatory's tri-domed glass and steel building designed by Lord & Burnham, who were among the premier conservatory designers of their time, will remain untouched by the expansion.

Lackawanna recently received a grant to redo the South Park Avenue and Ridge Road intersection near the park. There is also an effort at the Frederick Law Olmsted-designed South Park, where the conservatory is located, to restore Olmsted’s original arboretum and remove the golf course

As unlikely as it seems now, the Botanical Gardens nearly met the demolition ball in 1929 and again in 1979. Following the latter crisis, the county stepped in and took it over. In 2004, the county struck a public-private management agreement with the Botanical Gardens Society

Newell Nussbaumer. [Buffalo Rising](#), online. December 19, 2018.

Mark Sommer. [Buffalo News](#). November 1, 2018..



WESTERN NEW YORK IRIS SOCIETY Program/Calendar 2018/2019
Lancaster Library 5466 Broadway, Depew, N.Y. 14086 (683-1120) 1:30 pm
30 Minutes is reserved for the featured topic at the beginning of the meeting

Sun Sept. 30 Review of Iris Sale at BOTANS; Nominations / Election of Officers; 2018-2019 AGENDA Review / Changes; Pot Luck

Sat Oct. 20 AIS Region 2 Annual Meeting

Sun. Nov. 4 Maria Gerbracht's home at 2pm 125 Lafayette Blvd. Williamsville, NY (632-8069) Meeting / Budget 2019 **Educational Topic: Novelty Iris (Maria)**

Sun Feb. 3, 2019 Lancaster Library 1:30 pm **Topic: Japanese/Louisiana Iris (Joanne)**

Sun. Mar. 3 Lancaster Library 1:30 pm **Topic: Miniature Dwarf Bearded Iris and Standard Dwarf Bearded Iris (Annette)**

Thurs Mar. 21 Plantasia Education Table (Marilee and Velma)

Sun. May 5 Lancaster Library 1:30 pm Meeting Assignments / Review for IRIS SHOW
Topic: Reticulatas (Velma)

June 1 WNYIS IRIS SHOW Location: TBA Date: TBA Time: TBA

May/June/July Garden Visits: Hostess will notify members with date/ time Field Trip: Chuck Chapin's? or Hamilton Botanical Garden?

Sun July 7 David's home at 5755 Genesee Lancaster, NY (684-5221) Meeting 1:30pm Assignments for Sale; Acquisitions; **Topic: Arilbreds (David)**

Sun Aug 11 Marilee Farry home, 103 Towers Blvd Cheektowaga, NY 668-1789 SALE Preparations (meeting if necessary)

August 24 IRIS SALE: Bot. Gardens (basement of new building) 9am-2pm

Sun Sept. 8 Lancaster Library Meeting 1:30 pm Nominations / Elections; Review of Iris Sale; Budget; News; Pot Luck Dinner

VISITORS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME
CALL: MARILEE FARRY, PRESIDENT@ 716-668-1789

WNYIS EDUCATIONAL TOPICS SCHEDULE 2019

Sunday, February 3, 2019 Topic: Japanese/
Louisiana Iris (Joanne)

Louisiana Iris 'Red Velvet Elvis'. Kevin Vaughn (1996) Dark red black standards; velvety dark red black falls, orange yellow spear signal Style Arm Color: Near black, slight red shading near tip



Sunday, March 3, 2019 Topic: MDB, SDB (Annette)



MDB 'Aquadoodle' ([J. Terry Aitken](#), R. 2008). Height 5" (13 cm). Late midseason bloom. Standards and style arms white; falls same, deep blue spot, white halo around tangerine beard. 'Mikey Likes It' X 'Fiesta Flame'.

SDB 'Cherry Tart' ([J. Terry Aitken](#), R. 1985). Seedling 80-10C. SDB, height 12" (30 cm), Midseason bloom. Standards warm grey with slight burgundy wash at edge; falls smooth burgundy red; light blue beard. 'Pet Set' X unknown. Aitken's Salmon Creek 1985. Honorable Mention 1988, Award of Merit 1992



Sunday, May 5, 2019

Topic: Reticulatas (Velma)

Iris *reticulata* 'Spot On' (Alan McMurtrie)



June 1, 2019 WNYIS IRIS SHOW

Location, Date, Time: TBA

Western New York Iris Society Iris Show 2018:



Award Winners



Perennial Companions Division

Sunday, July 7, 2019 Topic: Arilbreds (David)

Picture of Arilbred Iris taken over 30 years ago in an old garden



GROWING IRIS IN CONTAINERS

Planting bearded Iris in containers is an easy way to enjoy this beautiful flower anywhere in your garden or in an Iris Show, if allowed.



By raising your Iris in a container, you have much more control over the plant's growing conditions. You can easily monitor the moisture and fertilizer in the soil and control how much sunlight it receives by moving the container around.

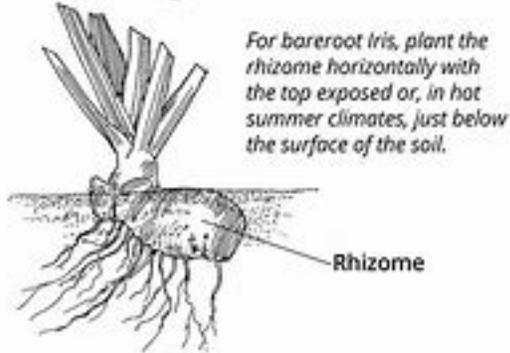


PREPARE A CONTAINER

Begin by preparing an appropriate container for your iris. If you're growing a dwarf iris, an 8 inch pot is sufficient however you need a 12 inch pot if you're planting the tall bearded iris. Make sure the pot has good drainage holes and fill the bottom inch of the pot with gravel to encourage even better drainage. Choose a fast-draining potting soil that is light but nutrient rich. the best potting soil to use is organic and mixed with time release fertilizer.

PLANT THE IRIS RHIZOME IN A CONTAINER

Planting a Bearded Iris



For bareroot iris, plant the rhizome horizontally with the top exposed or, in hot summer climates, just below the surface of the soil.

For potted iris, plant them at the same soil level as in the pot with the top of the rhizome exposed. In hotter climates, plant the top of the rhizome just below the soil surface.

Make sure that the container has thoroughly moist soil. Dig two holes next to each other, leaving a ridge between the two holes. Make sure the ridge sits in the middle of the container allowing rhizomes room to grow. Rest the rhizome on the ridge and spread the roots carefully in the holes. Cover the roots and some of the rhizome with soil leaving the top of the the rhizome exposed or covered with a light layer of soil. The rhizome should be visible if you look down on it and the leaves should be above the soil. After planting, put the container in a warm and sunny area of

FUTURE CARE — OBSERVE YOUR CONTAINER



When the rhizomes look like these pictures, it's time to divide. Cut them according to the diagram. Toss the "mothers" and replant the parts with the new foliage.

Hybridizers of Note: Chuck and Sylvia Chapman

Chuck's mail order catalog specializes in northern-grown Iris, and his own hybrids which have won many prizes and medals. His iris are very popular. You have to order in January to be sure of getting all his iris that you want.

Chuck Chapman Iris

Mailing Address:

RR #1, 8790 WR124

Guelph, Ontario N1H 6H7 (Canada)

Phone: (519) 856-4424

Website: <http://chapmaniris.com>



'Paradigm Shift' (Chuck Chapman 2006) SDB
Flowers: S. white ground, violet blue plicate stitching in center, wide light yellow rim; F. cream ground, light yellow stitching in center when first open; beards cream white tipped dark yellow.



'Forever Blue' (Chuck Chapman, 1996) SDB 12",
Early bloom and rebloom. Light blue velvet self;
beards medium violet blue. "A must have: blooms
whenever a fan reaches maturity from May till
frost!"



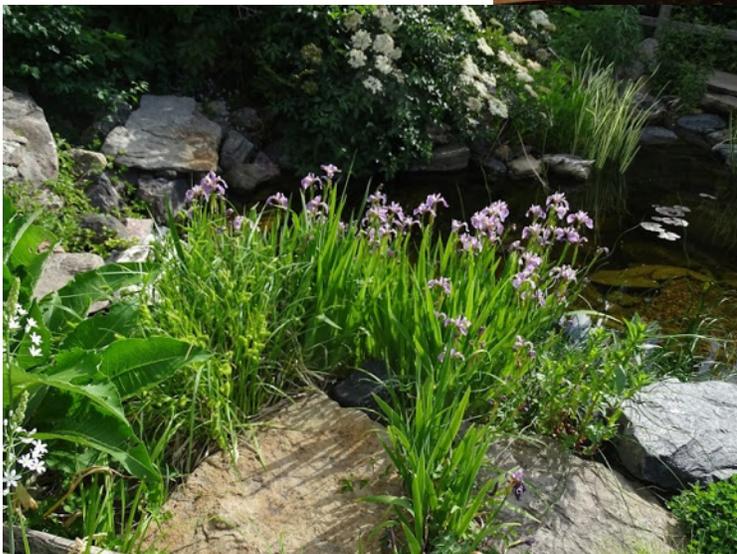
MORE VIEWS of IRIS

Panayoti Kelaidis, Senior Curator and Director of Outreach at the Denver Botanical Gardens,
Prairiebreak <http://prairiebreak.blogspot.com>

Horticultural and botanical musings from the Rockies, Great Plains and beyond. In humble tribute to Goddess Flora.

I am blessed with an extraordinary extended family and of course my gardens: at home and in the world's wild corners, that are ever more fragile and threatened: hence my work.

If you want to survive the holocaust of planetary proportions that is upon us all, you must defend the plants, and help them, or you must get out of the way, so they can get on with their planet-healing work





Iris x reticulata 'Mar's Landing'



Iris x reticulata 'Sunshine'



Iris x reticulata 'Palm Springs'



Iris x reticulata 'Orange Glow'



Iris histrioides v. *Sophenensis*



Iris bucharica (*wilmottiana*?) 'Alba'



Iris danfordiae hybrid un-named



Iris x histrioides '
Sheila Ann Germaney'



Iris x histrioides
'Kanharine Hodgkin'



Iris x histrioides 'Frank Elder'



Field of *Iris missouriensis* forming an azure pool of color along the Colorado in Middle Park.



Iris bulleyana albino



Iris ruthenica



Iris bulleyana growing in the midst of a second growth forest



Iris dolichosiphon
This one has the mottling so
characteristic of other
Pseudoregelia irises.



Iris dolichosiphon is in the Pseudo-Regelia section of the genus--which means
it's much more closely related to bearded iris and that it is in fact an Aril iris.



Iris versicolor in full bloom