

The Iris Standard

Newsletter of the Ontario Iris Society

An affiliate of the American Iris Society

Volume 18 Issue 1 - Winter 2023

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The Ontario Iris Society has a
Facebook page.

We hope you will join us then...

- upload your pictures,
- share your experiences
- ask questions.

It's your posts that make it a success!

ONIS E-Membership Fees

1-year single: \$10	1-year family: \$15
3-year single: \$25	3-year family: \$40

Check the ONIS website for details
<https://sites.google.com/view/ontarioiris>

Visit the AIS WIKI

Use this link to access the Iris Encyclopedia
of the American Iris Society,

[WebHome < Main < Iris Wiki \(irises.org\)](http://WebHome/Main/IrisWiki/irises.org).

Find information about irises, hybridizers,
and different iris societies.

Editor's Message

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

In late September it was announced in the news that, yet another new invasive species was 'at the border' between Ontario and New York...the spotted lanternfly. My imagination ran wild as I visualized a wee moth walking across the border, passport under 'wing'. If only controlling these invasive insects was as easy as denying them entry at the border! Since other measures must be taken to control them, some information on how you can help can be found on page 5.



I'm telling you; you're going to love it.

An abundance of reblooming irises graced our garden from August to November. After posting pictures on Facebook, many of you expressed an interest in adding some to your own gardens. You will find a list of the cultivars that rebloomed for us and other members on page 3. It's not an inclusive list but it will give you a place to start when shopping at our sales.

I did manage to pot some *I. reticulata* bulbs for forcing. I am anxiously awaiting the day they sprout...fingers crossed! On page 4 I've included some step-by-step pictures.

Otherwise, stay warm, stay safe and dream of spring! Kate

President's Pointers

By Terry Laurin

Happy 2023!

Hope you all had a happy, and safe, holiday season.

During November, the ONIS Board discussed our plans for 2023. We reviewed the possibility of holding our usual events however, given that many event organizers are taking a 'wait and see' approach, ONIS could not finalize its plans for 2023. Members will be advised as soon as details are available. Watch our website, [Ontario Iris Society \(google.com\)](http://Ontario Iris Society (google.com)), or our Facebook page, [Ontario Iris Society | Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/OntarioIrisSociety/)

Speaking of which, the virtual iris show is being moved to Facebook. We are still ironing out the details however, in a nutshell, simply post your pictures on Facebook and then all Facebook members will be asked to select their favourites. Full details will be in our Spring 2023 newsletter.



*New Paul Black introductions for 2022
SDB 'Curly Fries'*

Don't forget about your iris gardens at this time of year. If you lose your snow cover, check your irises to determine if any of them have heaved out of the ground. If possible, push the rhizome back into the soil. If not possible, cover the exposed roots with any type of soil. Continue to monitor this throughout the winter season.

2022 AIS Region 2 Meeting

The 2022 AIS Region 2 annual meeting was held via zoom. As Neil Houghton decided not to seek a second term, a new Regional Vice President (RVP) was elected. Cara Hutchings of the Greater Rochester Iris Society (GRIS) is our new RVP. Kathryn Mohr, of Capital-Hudson Iris Society (CHIS), has returned to the board as Assistant RVP. Annette Kuhn of the Western New York Iris Society (WNYIS) will continue as the Treasurer, and Ben Morris will become the region's new Secretary.

After the meeting Gary Salanthe and Charles Perilloux gave a presentation entitled 'Louisiana Iris Species, Preservation, and Natural Habitat Restoration'. Gary and Charles are heading two different projects with Louisiana iris (LA). Charles, in conjunction with the Society for Louisiana Iris Species Preservation Project, is developing measures to ensure that the many variations of native LA irises are propagated and not lost. While Gary heads the Louisiana Iris Conservation Initiative (LICI) which is focuses on reintroducing native species. (www.licisaveirises.com). The presentation was enjoyed by a number of Region 2 members.

If you are interested in finding out more about Region 2, monthly zoom gatherings are scheduled for the second Wednesday of each month. Our first gathering of 2023 will be on Wednesday, January 11 at 7:00 pm ET. Let me know if you'd like to join us and I'll make sure you receive a zoom meeting pre-registration email.

As always, feel free to email me with any of your questions about irises, tlaurin@rogers.com.



Rebloom in Ontario

By Kate Brewitt

We had the best rebloom season that we've had in a long time. It started August 10 with rebloom on IB 'Precious Little Pink'. On November 13 the continuing display was transferred indoors. Thirteen stalks of various irises were cut when a hard frost was forecasted for overnight. Once indoors we had the pleasure of flowering iris stalks for ten more days. They truly brightened the day at a time when daylight hours were waning, and snow lay on the ground outside!

All the rebloom varieties in our garden are *cycle rebloomers*. These are varieties that complete two distinct cycles of growth and have a predictable second period of flowering, usually in late summer or fall. Our garden is considered zone 5b. If you are warmer than this, then the irises listed below should rebloom for you. We have found that growing rebloomers along a south facing wall protects them from early frosts. If you'd don't know your plant hardiness zone, here's a link to a Ontario hardiness zone map, [Ontario Interactive Plant Hardiness Zone Map \(plantmaps.com\)](https://plantmaps.com)

IB 'Precious Little Pink' – reliable rebloomer.

IB 'Double Your Fun' – dug and divided this iris in 2021 and we were rewarded with rebloom in 2022.

MDB 'Hilda's Gift' – dug and divided this iris in 2021. This year was the first time it rebloomed for us.

MTB 'Lady Emma' – reliable rebloomer.



MDB 'Hilda's Gift' in bloom October 31, 2022

Two TB irises each had the beginning of a bloom stalk however, because they grow in an area which is more exposed to the elements, an early overnight frost turned the stalks and forming buds to mush.

TB 'Summer Whitewings'

TB 'Twilight Fancies' – pictured below.



MTB 'Lady Emma' and IB 'Precious Little Pink' in bloom November 14, 2022

Members reported rebloom on the following cultivars. The hardiness zones are indicated along with a link to the AIS Iris encyclopedia where you'll find pictures.

[TbStarringEncore](#) < [TbPthruT](#) < [Iris Wiki \(irises.org\)](#)
– September bloom reported in zone 7b

[TbBolderBoulder](#) < [TbAthruE](#) < [Iris Wiki \(irises.org\)](#)
– November rebloom reported in zone 6a



IB 'Double Your Fun' in bloom November 12, 2022

Forcing Iris Reticulata Bulbs – Part 2

by Kate Brewitt

In early December I potted some I. reticulata bulbs for forcing – ‘J.S. Dyt’, ‘Katharine’s Gold’ and ‘Alida’. As you can see from the pictures, it was easy to do. My calendar is marked for February 1, 2023 when I’ll take them out of the fridge and put them in a warmish room (60°F/16°C). Hopefully there’ll be an ‘early spring’ in our house!!



Gather materials needed to plant – potting mix, pots 6” deep and I. reticulata bulbs.



Half fill pots with potting mix. Position bulbs, pointed end up, in pots.



Cover bulbs with 3” of potting mix then put pot in drainage saucer.



Water until it comes out drainage holes in bottom of pot. Drain excess water from saucer.



Place in fridge for 8 weeks of cold storage. Mark your calendar...then wait!

The Latest Invasive Species in Ontario

by Kate Brewitt

As of September 9, 2022, over 100 spotted lanternfly adults have been found in a residential area of Buffalo, New York, adjacent to an active rail line. The New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets' Division of Plant Industry inspectors will continue to survey the surrounding areas in the coming days.

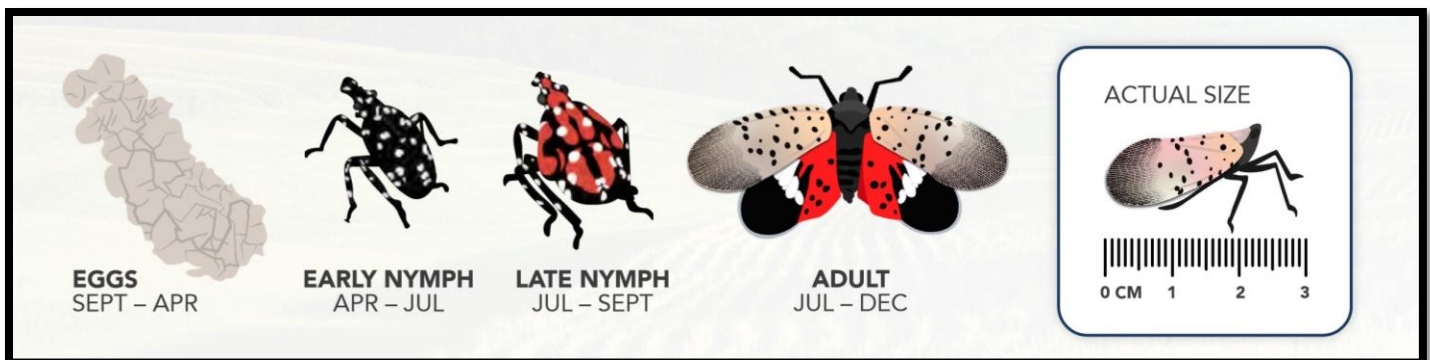
This ominous news came on the heels of the last new invasive species warning, the jumping worm. Once again, I headed to the internet for information.

If, like me, you like to stroll through your garden with a glass of Canadian produced wine, or cook with

apples picked from your local orchard, then you may want to pay close attention to the habits of this new invasive insect. Having grown up in Toronto, I know the tree of heaven (*Ailanthus altissima*), one of its host trees and considered an invasive species itself, grows prolifically. This may be something for us gardeners to monitor.

The spotted lanternfly (SLF, *Lycorma delicatula*) is an invasive pest from Asia that kills plants by sucking the sap from leaves and stems. SLF feed in swarms on more than 70 species of trees and plants, including cultivated grapes, fruit trees, black walnut, maples, and oaks. SLF is a threat to Canada's multi-billion-dollar wine (viticulture) and fruit industries.

LIFE CYCLE OF THE SPOTTED LANTERNFLY



WHERE IS SLF?

SLF has not been detected in Canada...yet. It was first detected in Pennsylvania in 2014 and has since spread to neighbouring states. As of 2021, SLF has been intercepted as far north as New York State, bordering Ontario's Niagara region.

SIGNS OF SLF

- Muddy grey egg masses on hard surfaces including picnic tables and patio stones.
- Accumulation of a sweet, sticky substance called "honeydew" and sooty-coloured mould on and at the base of trees.
- Swarming of nymphs and adults on host trees, which include tree of heaven, grapevines, fruit trees, black walnut, maples, oaks, and more.

WHAT CAN YOU DO?

- Report sightings to www.eddmaps.org (web reporting of invasive species),

www.invasivespeciescentre.ca/spottedlanternfly or the Canadian Food Inspection Agency at www.inspection.gc.ca/pests.

- Avoid planting tree of heaven, SLF's preferred host; if you see any tree of heaven, inspect them for SLF.
- SLF can move to new locations on items such as vehicles, plants and nursery stock, stone and building materials, and shipping containers. Check hard surfaces for egg masses frequently, especially when leaving or transporting materials from areas of known SLF detections or quarantine zone.

Early detection of SLF is critical to protecting Canada's forests, vineyards, and tender fruit orchards. You can help by keeping an eye out for this pest and report any sightings. Your local vigneron or fruit grower will thank you!



In the Months Ahead

At the time of publication ONIS did not know which events we will be holding or attending in 2023. As details become available they will be posted on our website, [Ontario Iris Society \(google.com\)](http://Ontario Iris Society (google.com)), and our Facebook page, Ontario Iris Society | Facebook.

There will be more news in the Spring 2023 edition.



Upcoming Conventions



2023 AIS National Convention
Courtyard By Marriott, Grapevine, Texas
April 12 – 16, 2023

The Iris Society of Dallas is hosting the 2023 AIS National Convention in Grapevine, Texas. For information check the convention website, [2023 AIS CONVENTION - Iris Society of Dallas \(irises-dallas.org\)](http://2023 AIS CONVENTION - Iris Society of Dallas (irises-dallas.org)).

ONIS Matters

Your 2022/2023 ONIS Board

Your Board for 2022/2023 is Terry Laurin, President, Jinny Missons, VP, Lyn Hickey, Treasurer, Kate Brewitt, Secretary. All Board members can be reached by emailing just1moreiris@gmail.com.

ONIS Matters – cont'd

ONTARIO IRIS SOCIETY (ONIS) INCOME AND EXPENSE STATEMENT OCTOBER 1, 2021 TO SEPTEMBER 30, 2022

ASSETS

Bank Balance 01Oct2021	\$ 4,296.55
Petty Cash 01Oct2021	\$ 20.90
Outstanding Debt	\$ (10.00)
TD Canada Trust GIC	\$ 5,580.33
TOTAL ASSETS	\$9,887.78

INCOME

GIC Interest	\$ 139.25
Donation	\$ 10.00
Memberships	\$ 340.00
Plant Sales	\$ 1,112.00
TOTAL INCOME	\$1,601.25

EXPENSES

AIS Insurance	(\$ 39.94)
Region 2 Contribution	(\$ 130.58)
Rental Fees	(\$ 20.00)
Iris Acquisitions (2 yrs)	(\$ 1,321.50)
Postage	(\$ 285.06)
Supplies	(\$ 21.80)
Banking Fees	(\$ 28.40)
TOTAL EXPENSES	(\$1,847.28)

Annual Profit/Loss (\$ 246.03)

Bank Balance 30Sept2022	\$ 4,383.87
Outstanding Debt	(674.80)
Petty Cash 30Sept2022	\$ 213.10
TD Cda Trust GIC (mat. 20Oct2023)	\$ 1,129.74
TD Cda Trust GIC (mat. 5Aug2023)	\$ 4,589.84
Total Assets 30Sept2022	\$ 9,641.75

Welcome

New and Renewing Members!

L. Vandette – Wasa, BC

The Iris Standard is published four (4) times a year, Winter, Spring, Summer, and Autumn. Materials submitted must be received by December 1st (Winter), March 1st (Spring), June 1st (Summer) and September 1st (Autumn). Submissions may be edited for style and clarity. All rights reserved. Reproduction in whole or in part is prohibited without written permission from the editor, oniseditor@gmail.com.

Title page: SDB 'Mikey Likes It' Photo: K.Brewitt.