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# IRIS VIEWS

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Western New York Iris Society    April, 2017    Carolyn Schaffner, editor

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## Meet WNYIS on April 8,'17 (Saturday) 2 p.m.

*María Gerbracht says about her talk on Design Techniques:*

When I teach, emphasize the use and manipulation of PLANT MATERIAL, not what the basic design ELEMENTS are. I am interested in training your eye to assure you that you already know the design principles...that you apply them when you coordinate an outfit you wear, or when you decorate your home.

I emphasize looking at plant material and what its intrinsic characteristics are, and how to use those characteristics (or Design Elements) to make your design:

Line, Space, form, size, color, texture, pattern and Light - each plant material has those characteristics. The better you know the medium of our art form, the better designer you will become.

The NEW Lesson is about HOW TO USE OTHER COMPONENTS (boot,



shoe, flip-flop, baby shoe, etc. - which Marilee tells me our Iris friends got excited about using in their show designs), OTHER THAN PLANT MATERIAL, in your design to tell a story; I will show you how they work out as a (1) Container, (2) Feature (3) Accessory or (4) Base under your container.

We DO NOT want these components to dominate; we still want the plant material to SHINE and there are tricks of how to accomplish that.

**125 Lafayette Blvd, Williamsville ([mrgerbracht@verizon.net](mailto:mrgerbracht@verizon.net))**

## WNYIS' NEW

## MEETING PLACE Lancaster Library



Beginning in the fall, and marching through April, public meetings are to be held here.

Come and sit by the beautiful working copper fireplace. Enjoy a coffee or a snack. Find a used book at the used book sale.

5466 Broadway  
Lancaster, NY 14086

Located in the Village of Lancaster on Broadway (Route 20) east of Central Avenue. Wheelchair accessible. Parking lot available off School Street, behind the Library.

## WNYIS OFFICERS

President: Carolyn Schaffner [drsnooks@twc.com](mailto:drsnooks@twc.com),

Vice President: Marilee Farry [farmare@aol.com](mailto:farmare@aol.com)

Secretary: Betty Schnellinger [BettySchnell@icloud.com](mailto:BettySchnell@icloud.com)

Treasurer: David Baehre [dwbfarm@gmail.com](mailto:dwbfarm@gmail.com)

## 2017 CALENDAR

### April 8 (Saturday) 2 p.m.

At Maria Gerbracht's, 125 Lafayette Blvd, Williamsville  
[mrgerbracht@verizon.net](mailto:mrgerbracht@verizon.net) *Design techniques*

### May 20 (Saturday) 2 p.m.

At David Baehre's — 3755 Genesee Street, Lancaster *Preparing Iris Stalks for the Show*

### June TBA *Open House at Neil Houghton, Rochester*

### June 16 (Friday) 4:30 p.m.

Eastern Hills Mall, near Sears *Set up for Iris Show*

### June 17 (Saturday) **WNYIS Annual Iris Show.** "Tiptoe Through the Iris" Preparation - 7:30 a.m.

Public 1-4 p.m. Reserve Design - Marilee Farry  
Eastern Hills Mall, 4545 Transit Road, Williamsville.  
Near Sears and the food court

### July 8 (Saturday) (July 1 if early bloom season)

11 am to 1 pm **Non-judges invited**

At Joanne Bassett's, 11837 Parker Road, East Aurora —. *2 hour Judges Training on Louisiana & Japanese Iris.*

### August 26 (Saturday)

At Botanical Gardens 2655 South Park Avenue, Lackawanna  
*Annual Plant Sale, with Hosta and Daylily Societies*

### September (TBA)

*WNYIS Picnic & Annual Meeting*

### October 20 & 21 (Friday - Saturday)

*In Rochester. Region 2 Annual Meeting hosted by Greater Rochester Iris Society.*

## SPRING CARE FOR YOUR IRIS From the Canadian Iris Society

**Culture of Plants:** In the early springtime clean and remove all debris from the garden. Inspect the plants and clear out any old leaves, etc. that may have collected over the winter. As irises grow vigorously during the first two months of the season, now is the time to apply a complete fertilizer such as 4-10-12. Approximately one handful around each clump and worked into the soil should be enough. The addition of agricultural gypsum and alfalfa pellets have also found to be beneficial. Watering is not required as irises receive adequate moisture from natural rainfall.

**Bacterial soft rot;** is probably the most destructive iris disease. It attacks the rhizomes and turns them into a rotten foul smelling mass. The disease is caused by natural soil borne bacteria entering the rhizome. Conditions which cause the plants to be susceptible are: too much nitrogen in the soil, too much water, garden debris around the plants or an inadvertent injury to the rhizome. Indications of this disease are a sudden falling over of the leaves or stalk due to the readily apparent fact that the base is rotten. To treat this problem, dig up the affected plant and cut or scrape away the rotten parts of the rhizome to healthy tissue with a small sharp knife. Do not replant immediately but expose the cut area to the sun and the open air for a day or two. Alternatively, the rhizome may be soaked in a solution of 10% bleach (1 part bleach to 9 parts of water) for approximately 1 hour. This disinfects the wound and will help speed healing. A dusting with sulphur or gypsum is also helpful.

**Iris Borer:** The iris borer is an insect that may selectively attack and damage iris plants. The adult insect is a seldom seen nocturnal grey-black moth which lays its eggs in the late summer on any debris or dead leaves near the iris plants. The small larvae hatch in the spring and crawl up the iris leaves where they then bore in between the leaf surfaces. Small holes and chewed leaf edges are the usual first telltale signs of their presence as the larvae eat their way down and into the rhizome. Once inside the rhizome, the larvae can cause much damage as they hollow out the rhizome. In August they leave the iris rhizome and pupate in the soil where they hatch into the adult moths and begin the cycle again. The best form of treatment is prevention and this may be accomplished by fall and spring removal of possible infested debris and a treatment with a systemic pesticide.

**GARDENING EXTRAS: DO YOU HAVE STINK BUGS? & Four favorite websites**

read on the web — **Brown marmorated stink bug control: Keeping stink bugs out of your house** BMSB have begun to move to potential overwintering sites which include homes, garages, and barns. **Here are tips to stop them from getting inside.** Source: *Mike Raupp, Univ. of Maryland Extension*

**AND ALSO search for STINK BUG TRAPS**

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**Life Stages**

Brown marmorated stink bug (BMSB) overwinters as adults in a protective sleeplike state, emerges in the spring, and begins mating in about two weeks. BMSB commonly mates multiple times, and the female may deposit as many as 486 eggs in a lifetime. Development from egg to adult requires approximately 538 degree days, a measure of temperature and time for insect growth, with an additional 148 degree day period before eggs are laid. Its light-green eggs are often laid on the underside of leaves, deposited in masses of approximately 28 eggs.



*From left to right, four nymphal stages of BMSB (second through fifth instar), adult male, and adult female. Photo by W. Hershberger*



*BMSB nymphs, first instar, cluster around a mass of newly-hatched eggs on the underside of a leaf. Photo by W. Hershberger*

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**SOME FAVORITE WEB-READING COME FROM THESE FOUR WEBSITES:**



***IPM IN THE SOUTH***



**AVANT GARDENS**

*A Way to Garden.com*