

Greater Rochester Iris Society

an affiliate of the American Iris Society

July 2017 newsletter

Cara Hutchings, ed.

We had our biggest show yet this year, with over 150 entries! Joanne Bassett, Marilee Farry and Wendy Roller had their hands full judging all those iris, but they did preserve to present Dorothy Steifel with Best of Show for Striped Butterfly. Cora Roller, in her first outing at design, received a blue ribbon, and Neil Houghton won the Blenis award for Tuscan Summer. Neil also won the popular vote from the public with Ink Patterns (I think Neil has managed to win this vote every year since we started the popular vote! I was checking last year's newsletter, and Ink Patterns was the winner then, also.). I want to thank everyone who helped this year, Wendy and Neil for making sure everything worked out with Marketplace; Nate, Cora and June for clerking; and a special thank you to Gary Roller for being the iris husband, father and grandfather that he is!

The next weekend we had a fantastic picnic at member Brenda Fox's home. Her gardens are truly a sight! She has beautiful gardens, with color all season long and has some wonderful iris. Everyone had a great time, great food, and great company!

Our sale is coming up in two weeks, on July 22 and 23, from 10 to 4 at Gro-Moore Farms, 2811 E. Henrietta Rd. We will need iris for the sale, so please look over your garden and see what needs to be thinned out.

The proper way to divide your iris is: the whole clump of iris should be dug up, and then sorted through. Cut off the rhizomes that have bloomed, because they will not bloom again. You can cut the foliage down about 6-8 inches. Write the name of the iris on the foliage using a permanent marker, and the type (TB for tall bearded, SDB for standard dwarf bearded, etc.) and if possible the falls' and standards' colors. Then wash off any excess dirt, check them over for borer damage, getting rid of as much as you can, and dip them into a 10% bleach solution. Don't forget to plant at least one back into your garden! All bearded and beardless types of iris should be done this way, including Siberians and Japanese. Those then have an extra step, since they like to be kept moist, please take a baggie and add a wet towel or jell beads and put the Siberians and Japanese in the baggie. I do have jell beads, and I will make sure to bring them to the sale, if you just have a wet towel in the baggie.

If you email Neil (neil.houghton@me.com) ahead of time, with the names and numbers of each iris you have, he will be more than happy to print out pictures of the iris. They do sell a lot better that way!

We will need help, so please let me know if you will be able to help out and when. Many hands make light work!

Cara