

IRIS VIEWS

Spring, 2015 Newsletter for and about
Western New York Iris Society.

- Join us on Sunday, April 19, '15, at Marilee Farry's, 103 Towers Blvd, Cheektowaga, NY 14225 (668-1789), at 2 PM for SPURIA IRIS CULTURE and SPECIES IRIS INFO and SEED DISTRIBUTION of seeds from Species Iris Group of North America (SIGNA)

- A view of Spuria Iris



• WNYIS Calendar

April 19, 2015 (Sunday) 2PM — Marilee Farry's House 103 Towers Blvd., Cheektowaga, NY 14225 (716-668-1789)

PROGRAM: Spuria Iris (Marilee), Species Iris (Carolyn) and Species Seed Distribution

Iris Show – June 13, '15 Location: Eastern Hills Mall Food Court

THEME: SUPER HEROS IN THE GARDEN

Show Co-Chairs: Marilee Farry and Judy T-Z Show Schedule Co-Chairs: Judy T-Z and Marilee Farry
Schedule Chair (deadline May 1)

Facilities Chair: Joanne Bassett — insurance and request for use of the Mall location

Properties Chair: David Baehre

Membership Chair: (table at show)

Judges & Clerks Chair: Maria Gerbracht

Education Chair: Joanne Bassett (AIS / WNYIS activities poster [Joanne] AND membership poster [Judy]

AND “How to Grow Iris” [Joanne]

Sales Chair: CMS

Judges Training - March 8, '15 in Honeye Falls, NY on LA Iriswas sponsored by GRIS

(pictured) Louisiana Iris seedling by Joe Musacchia

Judges Training - mid June (Date to be announced) — In WNYIS at Marilee Farry's, 103 Towers Blvd., Cheektowaga, NY 14225 (716-668-1789) —> 2 Hour Garden Training with Wendy Roller...

required once every two years. Marilee's garden has beardless and bearded Iris, established and newly planted 1st year rhizomes. She will provide a map with 1st year, second year, and older plantings. Wendy will examine and tell us the differences.

DETAILS OF THIS TRAINING ARE TENTATIVE DEPENDING ON THE RESPONSE OF THE IRIS.



Proposed ByLaw

As required by the present ByLaws of Western New York Iris Society, this proposition is printed and sent to all WNYIS members.

Please record your vote at April 12,'15 member meeting

The following underlined text is Proposed ByLaw Amendment (Membership)

Article III - Membership
Section two

WNYIS establishes a category called LOCAL MEMBERSHIP which is offered to individuals who wish only to support WNYIS activities, but who not not wish to join the American Iris Society.

To become a member in good standing, a person must pay the annual dues for LOCAL MEMBERSHIP, which is \$15.00 per year, to be paid by October 1, the beginning of the fiscal year, payable to Western New York Iris Society and sent to the Treasurer.

Annual Membership begins upon payment and ends on September 30 each year.

Members with LOCAL MEMBERSHIP will realize that such members will enjoy all the benefits and privileges (Member Meetings, Shows, Tours, local Mailings) of WNYIS, and of the AIS *except* the Local Member cannot be an Officer in any capacity, become an accredited AIS Judge and will not receive the AIS Bulletin.

Iris ensata

Tried and Trouble-free Recommended by 3 Professionals

Common Name: Japanese water iris

Type: Herbaceous perennial

Family: Iridaceae

Native Range: Japan, northern China, eastern Russia

Zone: 4 to 9

Height: 2.00 to 4.00 feet

Spread: 1.50 to 2.00 feet

Bloom Time: June to July

Bloom Description: Blue, lavender, violet-red, pink, white

Sun: Full sun to part shade

Water: Medium to wet

Maintenance: Medium

Suggested Use: Water Plant, Naturalize, Rain Garden

Flower: Showy

Tolerate: Deer, Wet Soil

Garden locations

Culture

Easily grown in average, medium to wet soils in full sun to part shade. Loves acidic, organically rich, saturated, moisture-retentive soils. During the growing season, it thrives in standing water (up to 6" deep). However in winter, it is intolerant of both standing water and boggy soils where rhizomes may rot. In order to meet these somewhat unusual seasonal cultural requirements, plants may be grown in pots that are sunk half way in water during the growing season but then removed to dryer ground for fall and winter. Japanese iris grows surprisingly well in garden soils, albeit less vigorously, as long as it receives consistent moisture. Plant rhizomes approximately 2" deep in fall or spring.

Noteworthy Characteristics

Japanese iris or Japanese water iris is a rhizomatous beardless perennial iris that grows in slowly expanding clumps to 2-4' tall. Sword-shaped, linear green leaves (to 24" long) have prominent midribs. Flowers (typically 3-6" across) have a distinctively flattened appearance. Cultivars come in single, double and peony flowered forms in a wide range of colors including shades of blue, lavender, violet-red, pink and white. Blooms early to mid summer (later than both bearded and Siberian iris). Synonymous with *I. kaempferi*.

Problems

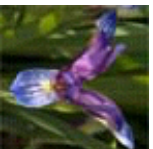
No serious insect or disease problems. Wet conditions in winter may cause root rots. Watch for thrips.



Other Species Iris

species seed distribution at the April 12, '15 meeting

Iris graminea



A Spuria native to central and Southern Europe. Thin graceful fountain foliage 18 to 24 inches tall is deciduous. Small thumb size bright purple and white blooms are found hidden deep in the foliage late May. Cut some blooms and bring indoors to enjoy the wonderful scent of ripe plums. Needs full sun and summer drought. (Zone 4-9)

Iris japonica



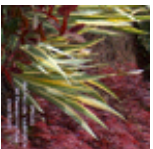
Native to Asia. Many (20 plus) small pale blue-lavender blooms, opening a few at a time, on a multi-branched stalk 18 to 24 inches. Needs afternoon shade and a loose humus rich soil where it will become a ground cover. Evergreen foliage shows freeze damage at 28 F. Blooms early spring. Can also be grown in a container and brought indoors to protect from hard freezes. (Zone 8-9)

Iris pallida 'Argentea'



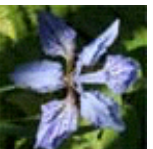
(Goos and Koehnemann '1906) A small tall bearded iris with sweetly fragrant blue violet flowers. Grown for its white and green variegated foliage. Iris pallida is native to northeast Italy, Slovenia, grow as you would modern bearded irises, very hardy. See bearded iris culture and care. (Zone 3-9)

Iris pallida 'Variegata'



(Krelage and sons Barr '1901) A small tall bearded iris with sweetly fragrant blue violet flowers. Grown for its gold and green variegated foliage. Iris pallida is native to northeast Italy, Slovenia, grow as you would modern bearded irises, very hardy. See bearded iris culture and care. (Zone 3-9)

Iris tectorum



18 to 24inches tall. Native to Asia. This woodland plant is happiest in a high filtered shaded area with a loose soil rich in humus. The large 4" violet flowers are heavily freckled darker. A great addition for the hosta and fern bed. (Zone 4-9)

Region 2

2015 Show information

HVIDS, May 23, Poughkeepsie Galleria, Magdalen Award,

Chair: Jim Robinowitz, jimrobinowitz@hotmail.com

CHIS, May 30, Location TBD, Peckham Award,

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

GRIS, May 31, Marketplace Mall, Rochester, no Region 2 award,

Chair: Wendy Roller gwr67@frontier.com

ONIS, June 7, Toronto Botanical Garden, 777 Lawrence Ave. E., Toronto, ON, Blenis Award,

Chair: Terry Laurin, tlaurin@rogers.com or 905-841-9676.

SOIS, June 7, Royal Botanical Gardens, 680 Plains Road West, Burlington, ON, no Region 2 award,

Chair: Chris Hollinshead, cdniris@gmail.com, Co-Chair: Ed Jowett, jowettfarm@copper.net

WNYIS, June 13, Eastern Hills Mall, McGarvey Award,

Co-chairs Judy Tucholski-Zon irisjudy@aol.com and Marilee Farry farmare@aol.com

CNYIS, July 4, Oswego County Fair Grounds Horticultural Building, Sandy Creek NY, Wirtz-Rettig Award,

Chair: Janette Smith, 315-298-5616, wjsmith0129Z@yahoo.com

Hydroponically Grown Bearded Irises?

Original article courtesy of Maggie Asplet

see photos at [WORLD OF IRISES Blog of AIS](#)

In 2013, Ernie Lamont, one of the newer members of the Gisborne Iris Group, decided to try his luck growing irises hydroponically. Knowing how little bearded irises like to have wet feet, many of the club members were skeptical about the experiment. But Ernie had been successfully using hydroponics to grow vegetables and other plants for close to fifteen years, so if anyone could give a fair test to the technique, he would be the one.

Ernie's system is located in his greenhouse. He uses materials anyone might have at hand: old plastic or metal rain gutters and wooden troughs covered in plastic sheeting constitute the channels. The pots and plants stand in a 50/50 mix of punniced and pea gravel about two to three inches deep. The nutrient rich water is pumped up to one end of the channel and runs downhill into tanks which are low, forming a short waterfall, which puts oxygen back into the water. The pump starts up every two hours and circulates the water for 15 minutes, then turns off, and the water drains back into the tank.

After two years, the results of Ernie's experiment have been phenomenal. Instead of rotting to death as many had feared, his irises have flourished along side of his vegetables. The rhizomes are not covered with water; only the roots get flooded. He has planted daffodil bulbs in the gravel as well, although he treats them as annuals. He feeds the irises a weak nutrient solution all year and with boosts in the months required.

Maggie Asplet lives, gardens, and hybridizes irises in **Gisborne, New Zealand**. She is the Webmistress for the New Zealand Iris Society and a member of her local iris society. She began with just six irises from her mother's garden, and she currently grows over 1,000 varieties of TBs, IBs, BBs, SDBs, MDBs, Louisianas and species irises.

Ernie Lamont began growing hydroponic vegetables after tasting the results on a vacation to Norfolk Island. He became involved in the iris world as a volunteer for his local iris society, setting up staging areas for iris shows. His collection has expanded to 70 varieties, with 12 grown hydroponically.

The DEC Recommends Bearded Irises as Landscape Plants

September 16, 2014

"Use native or non-invasive plants in landscaping and gardens. Traditional non-invasive plants such as lilacs, **bearded iris**, roses and daffodils can persist for decades around old abandoned houses and house foundations, and **don't normally spread**. Some popular cultivars, though—most notably Japanese barberry. . . —spread easily. So try using native plants in your garden instead."

Maria Gerbracht, longtime member of WNYIS, found the above comment in the magazine THE NEW YORK STATE CONSERVATIONIST, February 2015, p. 27: "*No Vacancy! New York fights back against invasive species*," by Karin Verschoor.

"This is definitely a recommendation to **use bearded irises as landscape plants**," says Maria. The article states further, "PLANT NO MORE Japanese Barberry and Burning Bush or the Japanese bittersweet vine. Foresters are now removing them from the woods. Read more here: http://www.dec.ny.gov/docs/administration_pdf/0215consumag4web.pdf

Editor's Note: On the other hand, *I. pseudacorus* is deemed by the DEC to be an invasive weed and should not be sold or shared with others. Dennis Krumb, on the Iris-Species Yahoo Group, stated: "As of yesterday (March 10) ***Iris pseudacorus*** is one of the 69 new plants banned from commerce in New York State." Here's a link recommended by Dennis, and your own web search will surely provide more information: http://www.dec.ny.gov/docs/lands_forests_pdf/isprohibitedplants2.pdf

THE DEC PLAN FOR INVASIVE SPECIES MANAGEMENT OF IRIS PSEUDACORUS ON FOREST PRESERVE IN THE ADIRONDACK PARK

- The project proposes to treat five small to moderate sized patches of *Iris pseudacorus* (yellow iris) located in wetlands near Barton Mines LLC. in the town of Johnsbury. Patches range from a few plants to 0.2 acres. The control method is to apply a treatment of a glyphosate based herbicide via stem injection. This stem injection treatment involves cutting each flower stem with clippers 8-9 inches above the root crown and then pushing a cavity needle into the soft pithy center of the stem. This creates a hollow area in the center of the stem that will hold the herbicide. Glyphosate will be injected into the hollow cavity while slowly withdrawing the cavity needle. The stem injection method is useful in minimizing injury to neighboring plants when compared to spray techniques. Also, stem injection can be conducted during windy or rainy conditions. A marking dye will be used to identify which stems have been injected with herbicide so that stems are not injected more than once. All clothing, boots, and equipment will be cleaned prior to leaving the site to prevent the spread of seed or rhizome fragments.

- Areas impacted by *Iris pseudacorus* can range from large scrub shrub palustrine wetland communities to private lakes and ponds. Saturated or open water habitats often provide the best conditions for invasion by this species. If infestations are not controlled, and suitable habitat is present, this species will spread vegetatively by rhizome growth, and/or seed dispersal to create a monotypic plant community in the impacted area. This can result in an overall decrease in the native biodiversity and ecological quality of the invaded habitat. These infestations will also continue to serve as source populations for future invasion.

• **Treatment Alternatives**

- **Cutting/Mulching** - Cutting is an option that has already been tried at similar yellow iris infestations within the Adirondack Park. Although in most cases repeated yearly cutting did prohibit plants from going to flower or seed, it did not stop plants from growing back.
- **Pulling** - Hand pulling is not an option due to the size of the impacted area, the sites soil characteristics, and the number of plants present.
- **Herbicide** – A treatment of glyphosate based herbicide is currently the best option due to the plants moderate size in this stage of infestation.
- **Black Plastic** - Covering the sites with black plastic is not an option due to the size of the infested areas and amount of standing water within and around the sites
- **Excavation** - This method is not currently a viable option due to its cost.
- **Past cutting and pulling of yellow iris plants elsewhere within the Adirondack Park has not succeeded in completely eradicating those infestations.**

- The work will be undertaken from the middle of May to the end of June for five years. At this time the plants will be in flower and will be able to be easily distinguished from the native blue flag iris (Iris versicolor). During this stage of development the plants will be readily transporting nutrients to the roots making herbicide application extremely effective. When yellow iris is not in flower it is nearly impossible to distinguish from the native iris species, therefore no treatments will occur. A photographic record will be made to document management progress. Any and all new infestations of Iris pseudacorus that establish in future years as a result of seed dispersal or rhizomatic growth from these parent stands will be treated in a similar manner until 2016.

New York State Invasive Species

Posted on **February 27, 2015**

Effective March 10, 2015 New York State DEC (Department of Environmental Conservation) will implement the new Prohibited and Regulated Invasive Species – 6 NYCRR Part 575. These new regulations make **Anacharis**, **Parrot's Feather**, **Yellow Iris** and **Cabomba** illegal to own in New York State.

Here is a link to the entire article

<http://bergenwatergardens.com/new-york-state-invasive-species/file:///localhost/Users/Guest/>



Yellow Iris pseudocoris

WNYIS & AIS Region 2 IRIS PHOTO CONTEST

RULES

Honor your Iris and gardens and record them for posterity. Share with your friends in the Region. To encourage the sharing, we are sponsoring an Iris Photo Contest.

ENTRANTS:

1) You may submit photos as an individual, or 2) your affiliate may run it's own contest and submit the winners.

SUBMISSIONS / DEADLINE:

You may enter as many photos as you wish in each category.

Photos should be submitted in electronic form to: Carolyn Schaffner by email (or make special arrangements) to DRSNOOKS1@VERIZON.NET at least 2 weeks prior to the October Regional meeting (to capture photos of rebloomers).

In 2015, that date is: _____

FOUR PICTURE CATEGORIES:

1. SINGLE IRIS BLOOM OR STALK
2. SINGLE IRIS CULTIVAR IN A CLUMP
3. IRIS IN GARDEN OR LANDSCAPE SETTING
4. IRIS WITH CRITTER (insect, pet, person, etc)

Please indicate which category the photos should be entered in

INFORMATION:

With your submission, please include your name, address and affiliation, and, where relevant as in categories 1 and 2, the flower name, hybridizer, year hybridized, and other information, such as whether the Iris pictured is grown in AIS Region 2 and therefore is recommended. Please let us know if we do not have rights (copyright) to use your photo in affiliation and Regional displays in the future.

SELECTING THE WINNERS:

A Power Point Presentation of the photos will be available at the Fall Regional Meeting and attendees will vote by secret paper ballots, as time permits, the votes counted and winners announced at the end of the meeting and in the very next Regional Newsletter

GROW/ IRIS

word search

S G A Q W I A Y G R A M M L F
D U U C Y B E T G W T V U A B
O D R K I L E D Z J A P R E G
C S Y O L N O A S G L I O V P
F I P O C N O A U R U Q T I O
E H W R U A N P O T C S S C G E
U F S J I G D L A A I P P E A C
L W V F U N O U E J T F T T Q
B F Z I L C G T E X E P P U A S
P I N K I I C C A S R M Y L P
N E Z S K A M C V V P P E Q U
A U R F L B E A R D L E S S R
Y E S D R A D N A T S U O P I
V S E T O S A S L L A F F N A
Y L B K R I J Z W C B A N Z J

BEAUTIFUL
BEARDLESS

BLUE
FALLS

FULVA
JAPONICA

JUNO
LACTEA

LAEVIGATA
PINK

PSEUDACORUS
RETTICULATA

SANGUINEA
SETOSA

SPRING
SPURIA

STANDARDS
TECTORUM

VERSICOLOR
YELLOW

