



NEWSLETTER

Hello, everyone. I hope you are all enjoying our short summer season. Seems like just yesterday I was shoveling snow, and suddenly the iris show season is winding down; the 2017 AIS National Convention is history, and we are thinking about which irises to dig for our important fund-raising sales. I want to THANK YOU for the efforts you have contributed to keep Region 2 functioning! I hope you had some good times along the way.

Congratulations and thanks to all who made our shows successful. It is a special challenge to stage a good show when Mother Nature chooses to bless us with persnickety weather. Nonetheless, our members persisted and the public was able to see many wonderful irises on display.

Things to do:

It's time for everyone to vote for their favorite 25 TB irises, via the 2017 Symposium ballot. This folded, multi-page form was inserted in your Irises bulletin. This is our way to promote and recommend cultivars that prosper in our growing conditions. Please return your ballot to me before Sept. 1. You may mail it or simply send me your list via e-mail.

Those of us who are judges must complete and submit the annual judges' activity report to Wendy Roller

*FROM
YOUR
RVP*

before Aug. 1. In addition, we vote our AIS Official Ballot for AIS awards. This must also be returned by Aug. 1, to AIS Awards Chairperson Gerry Snyder.

While you are tending your iris gardens, look for increases that you can donate to the sale of your Affiliate club. While you are shopping, or working around the house, please keep an eye out for items suitable to donate to the Silent Auction

fundraiser at our regional meeting this October 20-21. Affiliate sales and the regional meeting will be here before we know it!

Mark off Oct. 20-21 on your calendar for this meeting, hosted by the Greater Rochester Iris Society, and please notice the "deadline" dates for registering and for reserving your hotel room. It promises to be a fun and interesting time. Guest speaker Chad Harris is a noted iris hybridizer, judge and an outstanding speaker. You will enjoy his program! GRIS has already put much effort and time into this event, and I am looking forward to the result.

Stay cool!

Dorothy



New York



Ontario



Quebec



*Iris,
the
Rainbow
of the
Garden*

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The Newsletter of Region 2 of the American Iris Society is published twice a year and is e-mailed free to all members of the American Iris Society residing in Region 2 (New York State, Ontario, and Quebec.) Members without email may receive a paper copy by mail upon request. It is the member's responsibility to advise of e-mail changes and to submit a written request for paper copies to the editor. Permission is granted to reproduce articles, with proper attribution, unless otherwise noted.

DEADLINES: Spring Issue February 15
Fall Issue August 15

Editor: Betty Schnellinger
405 Maple Road, Corfu NY 14036

BettySchnell@icloud.com
585-599-3502

Region 2 of the American Iris Society

Officers

President & RVP	Dorothy Stiefel 260 Michigan Hollow Road, Spencer NY 14883	Irisacher@aol.com	(607) 589-7465
Vice President	Kathryn Mohr 19 Roslyn Dr, Ballston Lake NY 12019-9748	kemohrke@aol.com	(518) 952-4995
Secretary	Kate Brewitt 120 Glass Drive, Aurora ON L4G 2E8 Canada	Kbrewitt@rogers.com	(905) 841-9676
Treasurer	Vaughn Sayles 640 Sheffield Road, Ithaca NY 14850-9253	Vsayles47@aol.com	(607) 273-1355

Committee Chairpersons

Archives	Dorothy Stiefel (See President)	Irisacher@aol.com	(607) 589-7465
Bylaws	Dorothy Stiefel (See President)	Irisacher@aol.com	(607) 589-7465
Creative Money	Vacant		
Awards & Exhibitions	Kathryn Mohr 19 Roslyn Dr, Ballston Lake NY 12019-9748	kemohrke@aol.com	(518) 952-4995
Judges Training	Wendy Roller 158 Lida Lane, Rochester NY 14616-4133	Gwr67@frontier.com	(585) 621-8985
Membership	Vaughn Sayles 640 Sheffield Road, Ithaca NY 14850-9253	Vsayles47@aol.com	(607) 273-1355
Newsletter Editor	Betty Schnellinger 405 Maple Road, Corfu NY 14036	BettySchnell@icloud.com	(585) 599-3502
Youth Committee	Joanne Maier 11 Anders Lane, Glenmont NY 12077-4401	danjomaier@gmail.com	(518) 449-8480
Webmaster	Kate Brewitt 120 Glass Drive, Aurora ON L4G 2E8 Canada	Kbrewitt@rogers.com	(905) 841-9676

Affiliate Chairpersons

CHIS Capital-Hudson Iris Society	Linda Knipper 15 Wiltshire Way, Schenectady NY 12309	linda.montanaro@gmail.com	(518) 377-4987
GRIS Greater Rochester Iris Society	Cara Hutchings 1996 N Clinton Avenue, Rochester NY 14621	Thehutchings@mac.com	(585) 266-0302
HVIDS Hudson Valley Iris & Daylily Society	Jim Robinowitz 10 Baldwin Road, Poughkeepsie NY 12603	Jmrobinowitz@hotmail.com	(845) 454-6415
ONIS Ontario Iris Society	Terrance Laurin 120 Glass Drive, Aurora ON L4G 2E8 Canada	Tlaurin@rogers.com	(905) 841-9676
SOIS Southern Ontario Iris Society	Ed Jowett 1960 Sideroad 15, RR 2 Tottenham ON L0G 1W0 Canada	jowettfarm@copper.net	(905) 936-9941
WNYIS Western New York Iris Society	Carolyn Schaffner 464 Crescent Avenue, Buffalo NY 14214-1914	drsnooks@twc.com	(716) 837-2285

AIS Region 2 Annual Meeting

Hampton Inn and Suites, Thruway Exit 45, Victor, NY

October 21, 2017



Guest speaker Chad Harris is a leading hybridizer of Japanese iris and pseudatas (species crosses).

Mt. Pleasant Iris Farm
Washougal, WA
<http://mtpleasantiris.com>

Lunch and presentation is open to the public on a space available basis.

October 21, 2017

1:15 to 2:15 p.m.

Registration: \$20.00 US



Japanese iris 'Koto Harp Strings'
(Chad Harris 2016)



I. laevigata



A selection of Harris introductions

Having grown and hybridized iris for 40 years, Chad has become a world leader in hybridizing *I. ensata* (Japanese iris) and species crosses (pseudatas). His presentation, "Water Lovers of Asia," was originally prepared for the New Zealand national iris convention.

Bring your questions about growing these amazing irises that extend your season and delight your eye!

For further information about the Rochester Iris Society, an Affiliate of the American Iris Society, please contact:

Cara Hutchings thehutchings@mac.com (585) 266-0302
Neil Houghton neil.houghton@me.com

<http://www.irises.org> <http://aisregion2.org> <http://rochesteriris.blogspot.com>

AIS Region 2 Annual Meeting

AGENDA

October 21 and 22, 2017

Hampton Inn and Suites, Thruway Exit 45, Victor, NY

- FRIDAY**
- 4:00 – 5:30 Registration
 - 4:00 – 7:30 Silent Auction Setup
 - 5:00 – 5:30 Audit by Affiliate Leaders
 - 5:30 – 7:30 Dinner on your own. Many restaurants are near the motel.
You can walk to Panera Bread, McDonalds, and
The City Tavern (nice and 'reasonable') <https://www.citytavernvictor.com>
 - 7:30 PM – Dessert Reception: Meet Chad Harris
- SATURDAY**
- 6:00 – 8:30 am Breakfast (complimentary for Hotel Guests)
 - 7:00 – 9:00 am Silent Auction Set-Up
 - 9:00 – 12:45 am Silent Auction Bidding
 - 8:00 – 10:30 am Registration
 - 8:30 – 9:30 am Training Session: "Judging Iris Ensata" – Chad Harris**
 - 9:45 am – 12:15 pm Region 2 Board of Directors Meeting / 10 minute break /
General Membership Meeting
 - 12:30 pm Buffet Luncheon: Meat, sides (at least one vegetarian), salad, dessert**
 - 1:15 – 2:15 pm Keynote Speaker, Chad Harris: "The Water Lovers of Asia"
 - 2:15 – 2:30 pm Silent Auction Payment
 - 2:30 – 2:45 pm Live Auction! Harris Introductions
 - 3:00 – 4:00 pm Training Session: "Judging Species-x Iris" – Chad Harris**



Fall Meeting Registration Form: AIS Region 2

AIS Region 2 Fall Conference Registration: \$20.00 US (includes Saturday lunch buffet).

Please complete an individual form for each person. Clip and mail, including your check for \$20.00 US, **per person**, made out to Cara Hutchings. Send to:

Cara Hutchings, President
Greater Rochester Iris Society (GRIS)
1996 North Clinton Avenue
Rochester NY 14621

We must receive your forms by **September 21, 2017**. The program and lunch will be open to the general public for \$20.00 US per person on a space available basis after that date.

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY!

Name as you wish it to appear on your name tag

Address: # Street

City, State/Prov., ZIP/Postal Code

Local club (if applicable)

E-mail

Preferred Phone

I will attend the Training Session "Judging Iris Ensata"

Yes _____

No _____

I will attend the Training Session "Judging Spec-x Iris"

Yes _____

No _____

For questions or comments: thehutchings@mac.com or call Cara Hutchings, (585) 266-0302.



AIS Region 2 Annual Meeting

October 20-21, 2017

Hampton Inn & Suites

7637 Pittsford-Victor Road Rte 96
(NYS Thruway Exit 45) Victor NY 14564
585-924-0440

Room Rate: Reduced room rates of \$119.00 US (\$139 US /Suite) are available until September 21. If you are staying at the Hampton, use the link below to make your registration on line:

<http://bit.ly/AISreg2-2017>

~ ~ ~ Last day to book at this rate is September 21, 2017 ~ ~ ~

These amenities are included in the above rates:

- Complimentary Breakfast
- Complimentary Wireless Internet
- Complimentary Guest Parking
- Indoor Pool & Fitness Center
- Online Booking link or option to call in
- Standard Room: King with Pull out Sofa or 2 DD beds
- Suites have the separate bedroom along with kitchen and living room space, with pull-out sofa, full-sized refrigerator, freezer, stove top, microwave, sink & dishwasher

Directions: Take Thruway to Exit 45 toward Interstate 90. Immediately after toll booths, stay RIGHT, exit to Rte. 96. Turn Right on Rte. 96.

Silent Auction

Cara Hutchings, GRIS president, is our coordinator for the Silent Auction. When you know what you/your club is contributing to the auction, please e-mail Cara at thehutchings@mac.com or phone at (585)266-0302.

Silent auction set-up begins Friday evening at 4:00 and continues the next morning. Cara will be pleased to answer your questions and address your concerns.

YOU

**could be the winner of one of these
exquisite iris drawings by GRIS member
Neil Houghton!**



JUDGES TRAINING REPORT**WENDY ROLLER**

**REGION 2 OF THE AMERICAN IRIS SOCIETY – JUDGES and STUDENT JUDGES
Status Roster – as of June 30, 2017**

<u>Active Master</u>	<u>Retired Master</u>	<u>Garden / Exhibition</u>
David Baehre	Daniel P. McMillen	Kate Brewitt
Joanne Bassett	James McMillen	John Colley
Chuck Chapman	Carolyn Schaffner	Marilee Farry
Maria Gerbracht	Helen B. Schueler	John W. Heimke
Raymond Ives	Kathleen Shadrack	Terrance Laurin
Donna James	Shirley A. Varmette	E.J. Mattson
Eugene Koschara	Ken Viner	Vaughn Sayles
Mildred Koschara		Janette Smith
Donna J. Lowry	<u>Candidate for Judgeship</u>	Mary J. Urist
Maureen Mark		
Gloria McMillen	Suzanne Perry	<u>Apprentice Judge</u>
Wendy K. Roller		
Mary Jane Shanley		Jinny Missons
Dorothy Stiefel		

2017 JUDGES TRAINING COURSES IN REGION 2

Three judges training opportunities are currently scheduled in Region 2 for the rest of this year. For judges living in the eastern part of Region 2, the information on judges training sessions offered in Region 1 may be found on the Region 1 website www.irisgarden.org. Please remember to bring the American Iris Society Handbook for Judges and Show Officials, Seventh Edition, 2007, with you when attending all courses.

1. Awards and Balloting (2 credit hours) – Saturday, July 15, 2017 – 10 a.m. – 12 noon

Garden / Exhibition Judge Kate Brewitt has very kindly agreed to present this important course. If you need to accrue judges training credits before July 31, 2017 or if you have not taken this course in a number of years, you may want to sit in on this session. Kate will present the course at her home located at 120 Glass Drive, Aurora, Ontario, L4G 2E8 Canada. Please let Kate know by Thursday, July 13th if you are planning to attend the course. You may e-mail her at Kbrewitt@rogers.com or telephone her at (905) 841-9676.

Judges Training Courses offered during the AIS Region 2 Annual Meeting Event

The Greater Rochester Iris Society will be hosting the AIS Region 2 Annual Meeting on Saturday, October 21, 2017. The event will take place at the Hampton Inn and Suites, 7637 Pittsford-Victor Road (New York State Route 96), Victor, NY 14564. AIS Master Judge Chad Harris will be the guest speaker at the event. In his presentation, "Water Lovers of Asia," Chad will discuss iris ensata, iris laevigata, and the new species x pseudata. Chad is an iris hybridizer and owner of Mt. Pleasant Iris Farm in Washougal, Washington. Chad will also present two one-hour judges training sessions.

2. Judging Iris Ensata – Saturday, October 21, 2017 – 8:30 am – 9:30 am

3. Judging Species x Iris – Saturday, October 21, 2017 – 3:00 pm – 4:00 pm

A LOT is happening with the Capital-Hudson Iris Society!

by Euthemia Matsoukas, euthemia@nycap.rr.com

We've planned a **bus trip to the NY Botanical Gardens** and Dale Chihuly glass sculpture exhibit on Sunday, September 17. The bus leaves at 8:00 a.m. from the upper parking lot at Crossgates Commons. The \$50 fee includes garden admission and round trip by bus with bagel breakfast on board. <https://www.nybg.org/event/chihuly>



The glass sculptures are situated throughout the gardens. It is the first Chihuly exhibit in NYC in more than 10 years. NYBG has a tram for easy access for people with limited mobility. If you are interested in signing up for the bus trip, please contact me.

Mary Lou, Nick and Chris Nahas have invited us **all** to their historic brick house and gardens in Oak Hill for a pot luck picnic on **Saturday, July 8**, at 12:00 pm. Mary Lou has beautiful gardens and a great space for entertaining, with a barn for protection if needed. An added attraction is the I.U. Tripp Antiques and Collectibles next door with lots of "stuff" to look at and maybe even buy.

If you know you're coming, RSVP to me so I know how much grill stuff to get. If you don't know, you can **come anyway**, even at the last minute, because the more the merrier and we always have enough!

Iris Rhizome Digging Party on Wednesday, August 2, at Euthemia's.

Iris Rhizome Sale at Faddegan's on Saturday, August 5th.

Kathryn Mohr coordinated another beautiful iris show on June 3 at the Bethlehem Public Library. There were 56 entries, 8 exhibitors and 54 varieties of irises shown. Best in Show and the Magdalen Award for Best Median Iris was won by Kathryn Mohr for her MTB 'Sport Coat'. Best TB and winner of the Bob and Ann Keup Award (and runner up for BiS) was 'Paul Black', exhibited by Euthemia Matsoukas; Best Historic, 'Tom Tit', exhibited by Virginia Dorwaldt; Best Siberian (and 2nd runner up for BiS) 'Just Cruising', exhibited by Virginia Dorwaldt. Euthemia won the silver medal for most blue ribbons; Kathryn won the bronze for second most blue ribbons. Suzanne Perry won the Founders' Award for Most Blue Ribbons won by a Novice. The People's Choice votes by visitors were awarded to Euthemia Matsoukas for 'Paul Black', and a second place tie to Mason Drummer (youth member) for 'Black Magic Woman', and Euthemia Matsoukas for 'Calgary'. Vaughn Sayles, John Colley and EJ Mattson were judges. Thanks go to Kathryn Mohr from all of us for all her hard work.

Hope to see you at the picnic on July 8!



Greater Rochester Iris Society by Cara Hutchings, President



We had our biggest show yet, with more than 150 entries! Joanne Bassett, Marilee Farry and Wendy Roller had their hands full judging all those irises, but they did persevere to present Dorothy Stiefel 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!)



Marilee Farry, Wendy Roller, and Joanne Bassett judge entries at the GRIS Annual Show, while Nate Hutchings clerks.



Members of the Greater Rochester Iris Society at their annual picnic.

More from GRIS

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

We are looking forward to hosting the Region 2 meeting with Chad Harris in October. Look forward to seeing you there!



These two lovely drawings by Neil Houghton found homes with GRIS members at our picnic ticket auction. 'Dividing Line' went to Wendy Roller and 'Mesmerizer' to Brenda Fox.

Photos by Neil Houghton



A beautiful Japanese style arrangement by Mary Ann Robinowitz, featuring a lovely iris grown by her husband Jim.

Jim and Mary Ann are members of the Hudson Valley Iris and Daylily Society.

Photo by Jim Robinowitz

WESTERN NEW YORK IRIS SOCIETY

by Carolyn Schaffner, President

I don't know about your garden, but here it is, end of June, it's threatening to rain some more, and my Iris are rotting out there! The beardless Iris seem to like the dampness a lot, but the bearded, not so much.

Given that Western New York Iris Society competed for the McGarvey Award for beardless iris, and our show was on June 17, all that rain was okay this year.

These conditions must have been just the ticket for the garden of our own Blenis Award winner, Joanne Bassett, who captured Best of Show, the local Mary Pat Award for Best Pink, and the McGarvey Award for Iris 'Coho'.



Iris 'CoHo' (Chad Harris '05)
Pink self with large standards a shade lighter in color. Height: 38" Bloom: Very early



First Runner Up was also a beardless: Christine Wheaton's 'Enfant Prodige', a species x hybridized by Swiss-born Tony Huber and introduced in 1993.

Joanne also garnered Second Runner Up for 'Sprinkles'.



Iris 'Sprinkles' (Bauer/Coble 94) Late.
Lavender ground evenly sprinkled violet-lavender, except at pale rims



Wendy Roller brought 'McGarvey's Red Seedling' which was designated Best Seedling and recommended for introduction.

Marilee Farry, chair of the Design Division, convinced enough members to bring 10 designs which featured footwear as an accessory. Maria Gerbracht won Best Design of the Show. Several other blue and red ribbons were awarded as well.



The designs attracted many visitors and comments. One couple wanted to make a purchase, but we perhaps convinced them, with a coupon, to attend **the Annual Rhizome Sale on August 26 at the Botanical Gardens.**



We all grow other perennials and have found that a perennial display educates the viewing public about companions to grow with the iris to maintain a season-long interest in the garden. We are drawn to the iris bed to tend to its seasonal needs by the other blooms out there.

Three educational displays were also entered. Annette Kuhn brought her "All About Iris" folding board. I offered two: "Pseudatas as Alternatives to Pseudacorus" and "All About the Bud Fly".

This season, WNYIS has focused on preparing for the iris show. Programs included "Garden Design" by Marilee Farry, "Taking Photos in the Garden" with Neil Houghton, and a presentation by David Baehre on invaluable tips for preparing, transporting, and exhibiting show stalks.



We've taken the bold step of establishing a consistent meeting place, hoping that a public venue would encourage shy people to attend. Having gained several new members in the process of co-winning the Membership Contest, we needed a larger space, too. The Lancaster Public Library will fulfill all our needs.

"Didn't It Rain", excerpt of lyrics by Hugh Laurie

I know it rained (I'mma sing it)
I'm tired of this rain (on the east)
Been raining too long (in the west)
It rained all day (to the north)
All night long (in the south)
Rain, rain go away (all day)
come again some other day (all day)
You know it rained (all night) Oh, how it rained (all day)
God knows it rained (everywhere).

Show photos by Carolyn Schaffner
Iris photos from the AIS Iris Encyclopedia
<http://wiki.irises.org/bin/view/Main>

From Aurora to East Aurora

By Kate Brewitt, ONIS

Eight Region 2 iris lovers met for Judges Training (JT) on Saturday, June 24 at Joanne Bassett's garden in East Aurora. It was one garden that I was interested in visiting. I had read many stories about previous JT sessions held there so I felt it was time I experienced one for myself. I also wanted the JT hours as a cushion for my judging requirements.

Terry and I had planned on taking in-garden training at the Median Iris Society convention in Lafayette, Indiana in May; however, we got rained-out, and opted for the warmth and comfort of our hotel room. Here is a picture of one iris lover who weathered out the storm.



Thankfully it was a lovely, sunny day at Joanne's. We gathered in the sun room while Joanne gave us a brief overview of Japanese and Louisiana irises. Then we headed out to the garden to look at the different cultivars growing. Even though we

were there to learn about the Japanese and Louisianas we couldn't help but divert our attention for a few moments to admire some of her pseudatas in bloom.

As Joanne progressed through her training, it became evident that she is very passionate about her irises. She gave us a commentary on each one, telling us how well it grew, what she liked about it, and why it was a good (or bad) garden plant.

After an insightful two hours in the sunshine we gathered in Joanne's dining room for a light lunch. It was quite pleasant sharing stories with fellow Region 2 friends. However, the time passed quickly and soon it was time for us to depart. Terry and I had a two-and-a-half hour trip ahead of us, back to our home in Aurora, Ontario.

Thanks to Joanne for opening her home and garden to us. It was well worth the trip! Of course I came away with a few names of irises I'd like to add to my own garden. Then again, no garden visit would be complete without this happening!

Photos by Kate Brewitt



*Marilee, Dave
and Joanne*

*Joanne and
her iris*



*Louisiana Iris 2018 Conventions in **NEW ORLEANS!***

The American Iris Society
April 8 - 13, 2018

The Society for Louisiana Irises
April 12 - 14, 2018

You're Invited!



Greater New Orleans Iris Society

hosted by
Greater New Orleans Iris Society



Tour six beautiful gardens:

WEDNESDAY

Longue Vue House & Gardens
Sydney and Walda Besthoff Sculpture
Garden
"A Louisiana Pond" in Madisonville

THURSDAY

Hammond Research Station, LSU Ag Center.
Burden Museum & Gardens
The Baton Rouge Botanic Gardens

The Hilton New Orleans Airport Hotel,
Kenner, LA, offers free shuttle to and from the
airport, free parking, and free WIFI.

Watch for more information on the AIS web
site as well as in upcoming issues of
"IRISES" and "News and Notes".

Paul W. Gossett, 2018 Convention Co-Chair
Joe Musacchia, 2018 Convention Co-Chair

<http://www.2018irisconvention.org/home.html>

<http://louisianas.org>

<https://www.facebook.com/LouisianaIris>

Uh-oh... What's going on with my irises?

by Betty Schnellinger

If you've ever experienced leaf spot, borer damage, or bacterial rot in your iris beds, you know how upsetting that can be. What to do, what to do?

Chuck Chapman, hybridizer of northern-hardy irises, has dealt with these issues at his gardens just northeast of Guelph, Ontario, in Canada.

In some instances, Chuck uses commercial products, but he also advocates early intervention, by hand, for the borer, and judicious trimming for foliar infections.



Chuck says you can detect borer presence early in the spring by examining the foliage for those serrated edges where the tiny borer has entered the leaf. You then follow its path downward and squeeze it right in the foliage when you find it.

The more mature borer finds its way down to the rhizome where it grows big and fat.



We might encounter these beasts when we divide our iris plants in midsummer. A 15-minute soak in a ten percent chlorine bleach solution will sanitize the rhizomes and kill any borers they harbor.



Leaf spot is another malady we sometimes see in our iris gardens. It's a fungal infection that requires scrupulous fall cleanup. Chuck reminds us not to compost infected leaves.

You will find more detailed photos and helpful comments for growers on either side of the border on Chuck's webpage:

<http://www.chapmaniris.com/id38.htm>

Also: [AIS-Pests-and-Diseases](#)

Don't forget: Next newsletter deadline is AUGUST 15

*One of these
gorgeous irises
could be yours!*

Hybridized by Chad Harris,
these breath-taking beauties
will be auctioned off
during the

AIS Region 2 Annual Meeting
October 21 and 22

(Details on Pages 4, 5, and 6)



JI 'Flamingo Waltz'



spec x 'Violet Swallows'



JI 'Pagoda Temple'

Stay up to date with the latest information about the annual meeting:

AIS Region 2 Web Site
GRIS Web Page

http://aisregion2.org/region2_013.htm
<http://rochesteriris.blogspot.com>

Other interesting and informative web sites:

American Iris Society
AIS Iris Encyclopedia
Canadian Iris Society

<http://www.irises.org>
<http://wiki.irises.org/bin/view>
<http://www.cdn-iris.ca>



Lovely unidentified *I. fulva* growing in Kathryn Mohr's garden. Photo by Kathryn Mohr



Siberians and Tall Bearded Irises

Don McQueen, of Ontario, Canada, a member of the Canadian Iris Society, emails beautiful iris photos nearly every day during warmer months. This enchanting photo was sent on June 7, 2017. To receive photos from Don's *Iris Fix* list, contact him at ddmcqueen@rogers.com.