



NEWSLETTER



GREETINGS from your RVP



Greetings from your RVP! We've just come out of a nasty cold spell as I write, and I am hopeful that spring will come, eventually. The truth is, it will be here before we know it, and find me saying "I was gonna do that this winter, how come it didn't happen?" If history repeats itself, this scenario is sure to occur.

One of the things that made me realize that it's later than I think is that the 2018 AIS Convention in New Orleans is less than 2 months away! The early date is due to the normal bloom time for the irises...far earlier in New Orleans than most other places the convention has been held. There is still time to register, however! Please see Page 4. For me, this is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to see Louisiana irises blooming in their native habitat, and not to be missed! I would love to see other members of Region 2 attend.

Something I want to do right now is thank all the people who make Region 2 of the American Iris Society AIS function. That includes all of you, even if you simply maintain AIS membership (which is something I hope everyone reading this does). It's no secret that AIS' finances are never close to "robust," and your membership fees keep it going, and benefit EVERY Affiliate in the Region. We don't often think about routine and boring details like keeping Region 2 in line with the IRS, providing the insurance that is absolutely necessary to hold our events and shows, and ensuring

basics such as keeping track of new iris introductions, maintaining iris judging standards and policing the naming of varieties. These would be vaunting tasks indeed for an individual Affiliate...impossible, in fact. The beautiful and informative Irises magazine that we receive quarterly is just icing on the cake. AIS serves as the umbrella that iris clubs across the globe can shelter under.

Thanks and thanks and thanks to those who step up to act as Region and Affiliate leaders. These positions are essential, and those who serve certainly do not receive a commensurate reward! The commitment and amount of time individuals devote to their duties deserves recognition and gratitude from all of us who benefit. In my final year as RVP, it has become abundantly clear to me that without these people and their dedication, the region would simply cease to exist. We are seeing this trend in other areas where regions must be combined in an effort to maintain the size and support necessary to function.

I am looking forward to a superlative iris year in Region 2, and I hope you all are, also! Keep 'em bloomin'!

Dorothy



New York



Ontario



Quebec

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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

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Region 2 of the American Iris Society

Officers

President and RVP	Dorothy Stiefel 260 Michigan Hollow Road, Spencer NY 14883	Irisacher@aol.com	(607) 589-7465
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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 and Daylily Society	Sondra Tillou 68 German Street, Kingston NY 12401	sondratillou@msn.com	(845) 338-4864
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



*Hurry with your Plans
for New Orleans!*

Time is running short for the

2018 AIS/SLI Conventions in New Orleans

Make your hotel reservations with the Hilton New Orleans Airport,
and send in your registration for the convention.
Find the information here: [2018 Iris Convention](#).

**This is a big year for New Orleans as
they are celebrating their
300th Anniversary as a City!**

Click on the New Orleans tab on the above website
for information on
New Orleans and on the New Orleans 300th Anniversary.

See you in New Orleans in April!



2018 AIS/SLI Convention Committee

AIS Region 2 Fall Meeting

by Vaughn Sayles

On October 20, 2017 AIS Members in Region 2 started arriving at the Hampton Inn and Suites in Victor, New York for the annual Region 2 Fall Meeting. Friday evening found attendees registering while members of the Greater Rochester Iris Society, the host Region 2 Affiliate, were setting up the Silent Auction.



Registration

The Audit Committee met to review the financials for the past year and dinner was on your own, followed by a dessert reception to welcome Chad Harris. Chad is an AIS Judge and the proprietor of Mt. Pleasant Iris Farm in Washougal, Washington (<http://mtpleasantiris.com/>). The members of GRIS provided a tasty assortment of treats which were enjoyed during the reception.



Chad Harris, Guest Speaker

On Saturday morning, the Silent Auction opened. Chad Harris provided an informative judges training session on "Judging Iris Ensata." The pictures of some of his iris creations sparked interest which carried over to the GRIS Live Auction of Chad's donations. You did not need to be a judge to learn more about Japanese Iris and how to grow them.

Our Regional Vice President, Dorothy Stiefel, then took center stage and conducted the Region 2 Board of Directors and the Region 2 General Meetings. Reports were given, and at the general meeting the Region 2 Officers for 2018 were elected: Dorothy Stiefel, Regional Vice President; Kathryn Mohr, Vice President; Kate Brewitt, Secretary, and Vaughn Sayles, Treasurer. The Region 2 Budget for 2018 in the amount of \$2,085.00 was adopted. Also, Region 2 Bylaws were amended to allow the AIS Region 2 Board of Directors to "meet and transact region business via electronic mail (e-mail) or via conference telephone call." (See minutes on another page).



Dorothy Stiefel, RVP

Kathryn Mohr, Chairperson of Awards and Exhibitions, presented the Region 2 Show Awards, and Dorothy Stiefel presented the Irwin A. Conroe Award for service to Region 2. A tasty buffet with homemade soups and salad was provided by Kyle. The group enjoyed the meal and the time to socialize which concluded the morning portion of the weekend's activities.



Catering by Kyle!

The meal was followed by Chad Harris' feature presentation on "The Water Lovers of Asia" which was the highlight of the weekend. Although a few of us had enjoyed this presentation at the AIS Convention in Des Moines, Iowa, it was well worth sitting through again. Chad did a nice job explaining cultural requirements for Iris Ensata, Iris Laevigata and the Pseudata iris. He also presented some great pictures of iris in these groups that he has recently introduced as a result of his hybridization program.



Silent Auction

The Silent Auction raised \$567.00 for Region 2. There were 56 items including 26 potted iris. The potted iris included 14 recent introductions provided by several hybridizers through the efforts of Neil Houghton. In addition to a large number of items provided by GRIS, there were eleven items donated by WNYIS. ONIS and CHIS also donated items along with AIS Region 2 members. A special thank you to Dana and Sylvia Borglum who gifted us with many items for the auction and also older catalogues for the Region 2 archives, as a result of their "downsizing".

Thanks on behalf of Region 2 to all those who donated and or purchased items. The Silent Auction and donations are what keep Region 2 going financially.

GRIS auctioned off live water iris donated by Chad Harris, and a number of members returned home with their arms full. With potted gift iris from the gardens of GRIS member Wendy Roller; potted iris from WNYIS Society; recent introduction donations from Mid-America, Sutton, Keppel, and Stout in the Silent Auction, and potted recent introductions from Chad in the GRIS Live Auction, members had a very nice selection of all kinds of iris. What a great way to add to your personal collections and obtain many recent introductions.

Following the auction payments some attendees departed while those who remained took part in Chad Harris' judges training on Judging Species-X Iris. Those who attended now know a lot more about Pseudatas.



Chad's final judges training.

Thanks go out to the members of GRIS under the leadership of Cara Hutchings for their efforts in hosting the Region 2 Fall Meeting in Victor. Special thanks go to Neil Houghton for all the work he did in obtaining Chad Harris as the guest speaker for the meeting, publicizing the meeting, and making sure that lunch was enjoyable. Those who were unable to attend missed a good time and a chance to add to their iris collections. We hope to see more of you in attendance at the 2018 Annual Fall Meeting.

Region 2 Show Award Recipients for 2017

Awards presented by Kathryn Mohr, Region 2 Awards and Exhibitions Chairperson,
at the Region 2 Annual Fall Meeting October 21, 2017

Award Photos by Vaughn Sayles



Kathryn Mohr receiving
the Magdalen Award
for best Median
'Sport Coat' (MTB)



'Sport Coat' (Philip
Edinger, R. 2014)



'Champagne Elegance'
(O. Niswonger, R. 1986)



Kate Brewitt receiving
the Peckham Award
for best historic
'Champagne Elegance' (TB)



Neil Houghton receiving the
Blenis Award for
best Tall Bearded
'Tuscan Summer' (TB)



'Tuscan Summer'
(Keith Keppel, R. 2009)



'Coho'
(Chad Harris, R. 2004)



Joanne Basset receiving the
McGarvey Award for
best beardless
'Coho' (Japanese)

CONROE DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD 2017

Kate Brewitt



RVP Dorothy Stiefel reads the certificate accompanying the award plaque.

In 2010, the American Society conducted a regional reorganization, dissolving Region 16 (Canada) and reassigning vertical swaths of Canada to the Regions directly south of them in the USA. Region 2 thus gained the Canadian provinces of Ontario and Quebec. Region 2 also gained access to the talents of Canadian AIS members.

Kate Brewitt was Secretary/Editor/Webmaster of the Ontario Iris Society (ONIS). She was also an accredited Garden/Exhibition Judge and had provided “open garden” hours in the garden she and partner Terry Lauren maintained .

Kate enthusiastically jumped in to participate in her new region. She became Region 2 Webmaster and keeps our website highly educational and informative. In October 2016 she was elected secretary of the Region. She is always among the first to show enthusiasm for a new idea, or in providing ideas to help the Region function more efficiently and effectively. Her upbeat attitude is inspirational to other members.

Region 2 of the American Iris Society honors Kate Brewitt with the Irwin A. Conroe Distinguished Service Award for 2017, in great appreciation. Congratulations, Kate!

Spring IS Coming!



These lovely photos of the gorgeous “walking iris” (*Neomarica gracilis*) are from Dave Baehre who grows it as a houseplant in his home in Lancaster, NY.

Although it's hardy in Zones 10 and 11, it must be grown as a houseplant or brought indoors during winter in colder climates. Each scented flower lasts for only a day but blooms may appear for weeks.

Dave said his will bloom dependably in late winter to early spring (March and April).



Learn more about this fascinating plant at these websites:

<https://www.gardeningknowhow.com/ornamental/bulbs/walking-iris/walking-iris-plants.htm>

http://creationwiki.org/Walking_iris

Treasurer's Report

Vaughn Sayles

Once again Region 2 had a good year financially. This is in part due to the generosity of Dorothy Stiefel declining once again to be reimbursed for her cost of registering for the 2017 American Iris Society National Convention and Greater Rochester Iris Society's decision to make an additional contribution to Region 2 from funds generated at the Region 2 Meeting that they hosted. Once again on behalf of Region 2 I'd like to thank them and the Affiliates for their contributions. Special thanks go to all those who made the annual Region 2 Silent Auction a success.

REGION 2 OF THE AMERICAN IRIS SOCIETY

Treasurer's Report -- December 31, 2017

Balances	1/1/2017	12/31/2017
Checking Account	\$2,853.45	\$2,997.68
Savings Account	\$3,619.44	\$3,621.72
Certificate of Deposit	\$3,585.77	\$3,594.72
Total Assets	\$10,058.66	\$10,214.12

Revenue received 2017

Affiliate Contributions	received	\$700.00
CHIS	\$300.00	
GRIS	\$150.00	
HVIDS	\$0.00	
ONIS	\$50.00	
SOIS	\$0.00	
WNYIS	\$200.00	
totals	\$700.00	
Interest Income		\$10.74
Savings Account	\$1.79	
Certificate of Deposit	\$8.95	
totals	\$10.74	
Region 2 Fall Meeting		\$901.59
Silent Auction	\$567.00	
GRIS Auction	\$334.59	
totals	\$901.59	
<u>Total Revenue received 2017</u>		<u>\$1,612.33</u>

	Budgeted	Expended	Balance
Expenses (2017)	10/15/2016	12/31/2017	12/31/2017
Archives	\$10.00	\$0.00	\$10.00
Awards	\$300.00	\$248.15	\$51.85
Judges Training	\$50.00	\$0.00	\$50.00
Membership	\$420.00	\$50.00	\$370.00
Newsletter (2 issues)	\$150.00	\$0.00	\$150.00
RVP (miscellaneous)	\$10.00	\$0.00	\$10.00
RVP (AIS Convention Reg.)	\$300.00	\$0.00	\$300.00
Treasurer	\$10.00	\$7.26	\$2.74
Secretary	\$10.00	\$0.00	\$10.00
Creative Money	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Youth Membership	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Fall Meeting	\$1,000.00	\$988.60	\$11.40
Website	\$175.00	\$163.35	\$11.65
Miscellaneous	\$50.00	\$0.00	\$50.00
Totals	\$2,485.00	\$1,457.36	\$1,027.64

REGION 2 OF THE AMERICAN IRIS SOCIETY

COMPARISON OF 2017 AND 2018 BUDGETS

	Budgeted	Budgeted	Budget
Expenses	2017	2018	Changes
Archives	\$10.00	\$10.00	\$0.00
Awards	\$300.00	\$300.00	\$0.00
Judges Training	\$50.00	\$50.00	\$0.00
Membership	\$420.00	\$20.00	-\$400.00
Newsletter (2 issues)	\$150.00	\$150.00	\$0.00
RVP (miscellaneous)	\$10.00	\$10.00	\$0.00
RVP (AIS Convention Reg.)	\$300.00	\$300.00	\$0.00
Treasurer	\$10.00	\$10.00	\$0.00
Secretary	\$10.00	\$10.00	\$0.00
Creative Money	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Youth Membership	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Fall Meeting	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00	\$0.00
Website	\$175.00	\$175.00	\$0.00
Miscellaneous	\$50.00	\$50.00	\$0.00
Totals	\$2,485.00	\$2,085.00	-\$400.00

Awards and Exhibits

by Kathryn Mohr

For up-to-date information on Region 2 affiliate shows and exhibitions, please see the affiliate reports.

Region 2 awards for 2018 were decided at the 2017 regional meeting. GRIS: Ruth V. Blenis Award, WNYIS: Magdalen Award, ONIS: Ethel S. Anson Peckham Award.

Representatives from SOIS and HVIDS were unable to attend the regional meeting. The RVP and Awards chair offered the McGarvey Award and Wirz-Rettig Award to those affiliates at a later date. Both affiliates declined.

CHIS applied to RVP Dorothy Stiefel for permission to present the McGarvey Award at their show. Permission was granted. CHIS will have the William McGarvey Beardless Iris Award for 2018.

The Wirz-Rettig Award is available. Affiliates may ask the RVP for permission to award the Wirz-Rettig at their 2018 AIS-approved show.



Join the AIS

<http://www.irises.org>

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[AIS: World of Irises](#)

[AIS: Google+](#)

[AIS: Twitter](#)

Judges Training

Wendy Roller

REGION 2 OF THE AMERICAN IRIS SOCIETY – JUDGES and STUDENT JUDGES Status Roster – as of January 1, 2018

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

Please note that some changes occurred in the Region 2 Judges and Student Judges Roster as of January 1, 2018:

- Eugene and Mildred Koschara have requested AIS Retired Master Judge status. Gene and Mickey, who live in Sloansville, New York, have served the American Iris Society as Garden / Exhibition judges since 2001 and Master Judges since 2014.
- Mary Jane Shanley has requested AIS Retired Master Judge status. Mary Jane, who lives in Snyder, New York, has served the American Iris Society as a Garden / Exhibition judge since 2001 and a Master Judge since 2014.
- John W. Heimke, who lives in Troy, New York, has decided to step down from his AIS judging responsibilities. We thank John for having served as an AIS Garden / Exhibition judge from 2005 to 2017.
- Congratulations go out to Jinny Missons who has completed her Apprentice Judge requirements. Jinny, who lives in Courtice, Ontario, Canada and is a member of the Ontario Iris Society, has been appointed an AIS Garden / Exhibition judge.
- Congratulations go out to Suzanne Perry who has completed her Candidate for Judgeship requirements. Suzanne, who lives in Loudonville, New York and is a member of the Capital-Hudson Iris Society, has been advanced to Apprentice Judge status.

SPRING, 2018 JUDGES TRAINING COURSES IN REGION 2

No judges training opportunities are currently in the planning stages for the 2018 iris bloom season. Please let Wendy Roller know of any judges training courses being proposed for this year. The deadline to have information included in the May mailing to the judges is April 15, 2018.

Membership

Vaughn Sayles

In 2017 eight people who reside in Region 2 (New York, Ontario, and Quebec) joined the American Iris Society. We hope they have been welcomed and encouraged to participate in activities of our local Affiliates. The new members are:

Anne Abram, Hamilton, Ontario
 Gordon Ballard, Buffalo, NY
 Keith Riddick, Middletown, NY
 Adrienne Rounds, Falconer, NY
 John and Anne Schwaller, East Greenbush, NY
 Gwenn Voelckers, Honeoye Falls, NY
 Ann Wetzel, Huntington Station, NY

At the end of September, 2017 there were 151 members of AIS in Region 2. At the end of December, 2017 we had dropped to 145 members. That number is expected to drop further since there are some people who have not renewed their membership and have not as yet been dropped from the AIS membership list.

2017 REGION 2 MEMBERSHIP CHALLENGE

This was the second year that Region 2 sponsored a Membership Challenge. Only two Region 2 Affiliates participated in the program this year and only three new members joined under this program. The program provided for the new members to pay only 1/3 of the membership cost for joining AIS. The Affiliate paid 1/3 of the cost and Region 2 paid 1/3 of the cost. The Affiliate with the most new members joining AIS was reimbursed their expenses for participating in the program.

The winning Region 2 Affiliate was the Western New York Iris Society (WNYIS) with 2 new members. Congratulations go to WNYIS for winning the challenge two years in a row. They received a check for \$20.00 for winning the 2017 Membership Challenge. The first runner up was the Greater Rochester Iris Society (GRIS) with 1 new member.

Region 2 expended a total of \$50.00 for the 2017 Membership Challenge. In addition to the \$20.00 prize to WNYIS for winning the challenge, we reimbursed them \$20.00 for Region 2's share of their new memberships cost and we reimbursed GRIS \$10.00 for Region 2's share of their new membership cost.

2016 REGION 2 MEMBERSHIP CHALLENGE

In 2016 four Region 2 Affiliates participated in the program and we had a total of 15 people become new members of AIS. WNYIS and GRIS tied with each Affiliate having 5 new members join. Unfortunately in December, 2017, only 2 members of the 5 from WNYIS and only 1 member of the 5 from GRIS renewed their membership for 2018.

Images Required for Iris Registration

by Neil Houghton, GRIS
AIS Image Coordinator and Digital Image Coordinator

When I was asked to take on the job of AIS Image Coordinator, I wondered what it entailed. I received different responses from almost everyone I asked. Before I took on the job, I suggested to a number of different people in AIS leadership that perhaps what I was hearing was that it was whatever I wanted it to be. After research into other major genus registration authorities such as hosta, daylily, roses, and the like, it became clear that only iris did not require a digital image with a registration request form.

After much discussion with leadership of the AIS, it also became evident that this was something that most felt needed to be rectified. I formed a group, Image Consultants, to advise me. With their help and with consultation with registrar John Jones, I prepared a recommendation to the AIS for a requirement for image(s) and a process to accomplish this.

The recommendation was accepted by the AIS Board. An article about this is in the latest issue of "Irises." Registration forms and images are to be submitted to the Registrar and to the Image Coordinator. John Jones and I will work together to implement and fine tune the process.

I am also the new Digital Program Coordinator. As such I have all the educational programs which are available through the AIS web site. It is my plan to fine tune these with input from species experts and from folks who, like me, have limited knowledge, to make these resources more informative and accessible.

At the Greater Rochester Iris Society meetings,
I will be sharing these programs for feedback.

If you would like to help with the review process,
please contact me!

Neil.Houghton@me.com

Capital Hudson Iris Society

CHIS has had a busy summer, fall and now winter season.

On July 8, Mary Lou Nahas and her husband, Nick, and son, Chris, invited CHIS to their historic brick house and gardens in Oak Hill, New York, about 8 miles east of Greenville in Greene County, for a potluck picnic. CHIS provide drinks and grilling foods, Mary Lou had her beautiful gardens, barns and historic house open for people to tour. Their antique store, I.U. Tripp, was open for business as well, so people really enjoyed themselves.

On August 2nd we had a Rhizome Digging Party, where people brought their divisible rhizomes to prep for the August 5th Rhizome Sale at Faddegon's Nursery. Bob and Ann Keup sent many rhizomes from their garden in Maine, which meant we had many, many beautiful cultivars for sale. The sale was well attended and we were pleased with the results.

Sunday, September 17, CHIS had a Bus Trip to the New York Botanical Gardens in the Bronx where there was a Dale Chihuly glass sculpture exhibit all through the gardens. It was a magnificent day and the 50 people in the group all said they want to go back again.

On Sunday, October 22, Douglass Paschal of the Historic Iris Preservation Society spoke on a special project of HIPS "Guardian Gardens: Because the past and future could use a little help."

November has become the month for our holiday party because most of us are so busy during December. 2017 saw a pot luck luncheon, wrapped gift exchange, and door prizes including gift certificates to iris growers and garden centers. There was no December meeting.

Our January 28th meeting began a two-part series on Gardening with Native Plants. Emily DeBolt of Fiddlehead Creek Native Plant Nursery in Hartford, New York, about 40 miles north of Albany, gave a talk on using native plants to create a sustainable landscape. The topic will be further explored in our March 19th meeting with Catskill Mountain native plant specialist, Karen Ursula Edmondson, who will give a talk entitled "Working with Native Plants: Designing with Nature."

On February 18, CHIS, the Upstate New York Hosta Society and the Hudson Adirondack Daylily Society will again get together for their annual Doldrums Party at the Albany County Cooperative Extension. Bill Waldrop is the speaker for this year's Doldrums party. He operates Kennesaw Mountain Daylilies in Georgia (see their website for more). Bill has been growing Daylilies for over 25 years. He will show us his introductions from 2017 and 2018, his new doubles, and some of the many introductions that have received honors from the American Hemerocallis Society (AHS).

CHIS will participate in the Capital District Garden and Flower Show at Hudson Valley Community College from March 23-25. We will have a table in cooperation with the Daylily and Hosta Societies, distribute information about our groups and meetings, and answer gardening questions from the public.

The May 20th Siberian Iris and Perennial Sale will again be held at Main Square Shoppes parking lot in Delmar. It's one of our main fund raisers for the year.

June 2nd will be our Iris Show at the Bethlehem Public Library in Delmar. Kathryn Mohr is again coordinating this effort.

- Euthemia Matsoukas



Greater Rochester Iris Society

President	Cara Hutchings
Vice President	Neil Houghton
Secretary/Treasurer	Nate Hutchings

It looks like spring is right around the corner; time to get started on club events for the New Year!

The Greater Rochester Iris Society will have their first meeting on March 11th. M.J. Urist, renowned Louisiana Iris Grower (in New York!) will discuss the Louisiana Iris Gardens in New Orleans for the AIS convention in 2018. www.louisianairisgardens.com.

On April 22, GRIS member Neil Houghton, the AIS Images coordinator, will go over some of the AIS presentations. He is working on updating them, and here is your chance to give your input on developing these programs!

All meetings take place at 2 pm in the St. John's Episcopal Church Hall, Honeoye Falls, NY. Hope to see you there!

Other dates to mark down on your calendar:

Sunday, June 3 – GRIS Iris Show, Marketplace Mall

July 21-22 – Tentative – Iris sale

September 9 – meeting at 2pm at St. John's, program TBA

October 7 – meeting at 2pm at St. John's, program TBA

Congratulations to Cora Roller, a winner and runner-up in the AIS 2017 Photo Contest. Her picture of her father and grandmother was a real eye-catcher!

Hudson Valley Iris and Daylily Society

HVIDS has new officers: Sondra Tillou as president, and Keith Riddick as vice president. We wish them every success. Outgoing president Jim Robinowitz has served faithfully as HVIDS president for many years. We are enormously grateful for his faithful support.

Keith reports: The next HVIDS meeting will be held this Sunday, March 4th at 2:00 pm (1:30 social time with refreshments) at the Marlboro Library, Marlboro, NY. Brook Moore will be the guest speaker discussing "Growing Hydrangeas".

On Sunday, April 8th at 2:00 pm (1:30 social time with refreshments), also at the Marlboro Library, we will discuss iris and daylily growing tips and ideas for presenting and fundraising.

Ontario Iris Society

President	Terrance Laurin
Vice President	Jinny Missons
Secretary	Kate Brewitt
Treasurer	Lyn Hickey

Our first event of the year was on February 17 when we attended 'Get the Jump on Spring and Toronto North Seedy Saturday' at the Toronto Botanical Garden. This event is always a ray of sunshine during the colder days of winter. It was a pleasant day meeting up with gardening friends.

Seedy Saturdays and Sundays are quickly becoming a popular way for the winter-weary public to spend their days while they wait for their gardens to emerge. ONIS will be attending two such events.

March 24 – Scarborough Seedy Saturday – Blessed Cardinal Newman High School, 100 Brimley Road South, Scarborough, ON

March 31 – Innisfil Seedy Saturday - Innisfil ideaLAB & Library, Lakeshore Branch, 967 Innisfil Beach Road, Innisfil, ON

This year's President's Open Garden is by appointment only. For further details and directions email: tlaurin@rogers.com.

Other events include the following. They all take place at the Toronto Botanical Garden, 777 Lawrence Avenue E., Toronto, ON.

May 6 – Ontario Rock Garden and Hardy Plant Society Super Plant Sale

June 3 - ONIS Annual Flower Show and Sale

August 12 – ONIS Annual Rhizome Auction and Sale

For more information visit our website at <https://sites.google.com/site/ontarioirissociety/> or email just1moreiris@gmail.com.

Western New York Iris Society

President	Carolyn Schaffner	Secretary	David Baehre
Vice President	Marilee Farry	Treasurer	Annette Kuhn

The Western New York Iris Society will meet on Sunday, March 4th
at Lancaster Public Library, 5466 Broadway, Lancaster, NY.

Maria Gerbracht,
Master Gardener, Plant Expert and Flower Designer,
will talk about
**Planting Different Types of Iris in Your Garden:
Soils and Culture**
beginning at 1 PM.

A business meeting will follow.

BRING YOUR QUESTIONS, YOUR PICTURES, YOUR FRIENDS!



In February, Brenda Fox, master gardener and avid plant aficionado, addressed our group with photos of combinations of irises and complementary plants. She emphasized bloom times, colors, textures, and placement. It was a fascinating program followed by an informative discussion and pertinent handouts.

At our October meeting, several members shared various aspects of gardening.

After a hard frost, Dave Baehre cuts back and removes all vegetation from his iris beds in order to deter borer infestation. Old foliage is a favorite site for the borer moth to lay its eggs in the fall which then grow into larva and chew their way into the rhizomes.

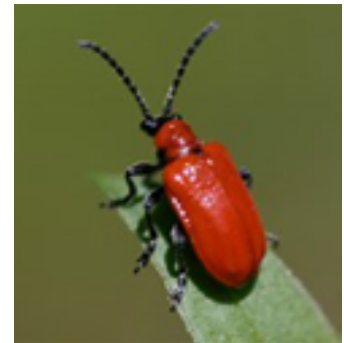
Dave observed the red lily beetle pest on some of his daylilies last summer. They will devastate the lilies if not removed. Hand picking is one deterrent. Used coffee grounds spread over the top of the emerging plants in early spring also was mentioned. Dave encourages weeding prior to the first snowflakes. Commercial products that may help include Bon-Neem, a fungicide, and Miticide, an insecticide.



Borer Moth



Borer Larva



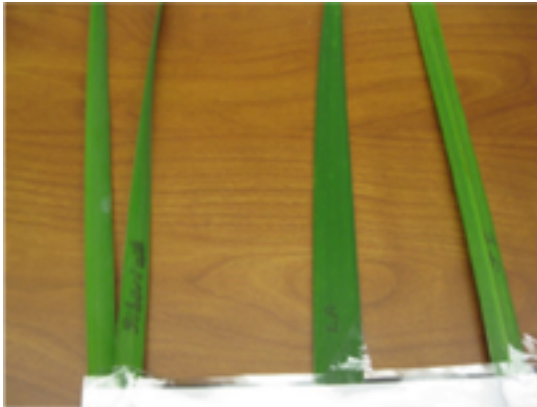
Red Lily Beetle

Joanne showed a three-year-old stone marker which had been written on with an artist pencil from Michael's. She also showed a Listo pencil from Iris City Gardens.



Marilee Farry discussed the problem of mis-named irises, low nitrogen fertilizers, spring and fall garden care, and disturbed soil. She also talked about her Japanese and pseudatas.

Joanne also showed how to identify the various types of irises by examining their foliage and rhizome characteristics.



Siberian, Louisiana,
and Japanese foliage



Japanese and Louisiana rhizomes



Maria Gerbracht presented a program on bulbous irises and traced their geographic origins.

She then concentrated on the early *Iris reticulatae*, *I. danfordiae* and particularly the cultivars hybridized by Alan McMurtrie in Canada.

We located his hybrids in several catalogs: *Brent and Becky's*, *McClure & Zimmerman*, *Scheepers*, and *Odyssey Bulbs*.

A Brief History of Fertilizer

by Tony Evangelista

The modern use of chemical fertilizer is less than 200 years old, a relatively recent phenomenon. By contrast traditional fertilizer practices can be traced back to 8,000 years ago, when early farmers likely observed that plants grew better in areas where animals congregate and deposit dung.

In fact, an early archeobotanist at the University of Oxford named Amy Bogaard decided to look for evidence that manure was used as fertilizer. Manure contains a rare nitrogen isotope, and by analyzing 2,500 individual samples of ancient cereal grains and seeds for that particular isotope, she was able to confirm that manure was indeed used from 4,400 to 7,900 years ago. In addition, ancient civilizations of the Babylonians, Egyptians, Romans and early Germans all recorded using minerals or manure to increase yields.(1)

But then in 1843 a German chemist, Justin von Liebig, published a paper entitled "Chemistry: Its Application to Agriculture." It was at this point that the scientific perception of soil changed. He argued that the soluble minerals in soil were the real keys to agricultural production. For centuries farmers had focused their fertilizer practices around the idea of returning the waste of the farm to the soil to replenish the store of humus they saw as the key to plant health. (2)

Von Liebig thought that humus had been traditionally overvalued and that because the most abundant minerals in plant tissue were nitrogen (N), phosphorus (P) and potassium (K), they were the real drivers of healthy plant growth. (2)

At first, it seemed that he was right. His field trials showed positive results. He even formed businesses to capitalize on his findings. But after a number of years the productivity of his research plots started to decline. Remember, he had ignored the soil's biology. He came to realize that the initial growth spurts may not have been caused by simply increasing the NPK available to

plants but instead was caused by a bacterial bloom in the soil. Stimulated by the soluble N, nutrients were being pulled from existing soil organic matter at a much faster rate. Humus was being used up and not replaced.



Von Liebig did try to explain the decline, but people didn't want to hear it. They liked the quick results of NPK, and the market for fertilizer was already too far developed to stop. The role of soil was basically reduced to being the matrix structure that held plants erect.(2) Soil biology was being completely ignored.

Then in 1918 Fritz Haber won a Nobel Prize in Chemistry for synthesizing ammonia from a mix of hydrogen and nitrogen gas. Nitrogen gas, which makes up nearly 80% of our atmosphere, could now be transformed into nitrate that was immediately usable by plants. The so-called green revolution began. And today our large industrial farms are reliant on it especially for corn production.

It so happens that N is a necessary component of many explosives, which led to many reports of massive explosions at fertilizer factories in the news over the years, even recently. World War II particularly fueled the U.S. and European munitions industry using Haber's discovery and accelerated the production of NPK fertilizers. The U.S. has 5% of the world population and uses 12% of global N fertilizer.(3)

There are many environmental consequences of synthetic N fertilizer production and use. A major one is global warming. A 2009 Scientific American article reported: "Fertilizers release significant quantities of nitrous oxide, a greenhouse gas with 300 times the heat-trapping capacity of carbon dioxide."

The same article explained: “Scientists have long known that the reactive nitrogen in fertilizers leaching from agricultural fields (as well as those smaller amounts exiting tailpipes and smokestacks) wreak havoc as they cascade through the air and rivers.

Rogue nutrients often spur harmful algal blooms as they flow into the ocean, and hundreds of estuaries around the world suffer from so-called seasonal dead zones as a result. ‘We are getting to the point where dead zones will be continuous bands around the continents,’ warns marine ecologist Jeremy Jackson of Scripps Institution of Oceanography in La Jolla, CA.” (4)

The manufacture of chemical fertilizer requires massive amounts of energy, and most is supplied by natural gas. And today most of the natural gas is supplied via fracking, a process that uses toxic chemicals to fracture the earth’s crust.

Given these developments, it is more important now than ever before to educate ourselves about the true nature and value of soil. It’s more than NPK. Humus must be replaced and maintained. We need to strive for sustainable agriculture so future generations are left with healthy, non-depleted soil. We must remember that It has been estimated that normal methods used to find new species of soil microorganisms can only account for 1-10% of the possible specimens in a sample of soil. (2)

Ed. Note: Thanks to Carolyn Schaffner for providing the above article. Reprinted with permission. Graphics added.

This demonstrates how we are just scratching the surface of completely understanding the interaction of soil and plants. Fungi, bacteria, protozoans, crustaceans, earthworms and the 90-99% of the organisms not yet discovered in soil are interacting with plants constantly, as I’ve explained in earlier articles.

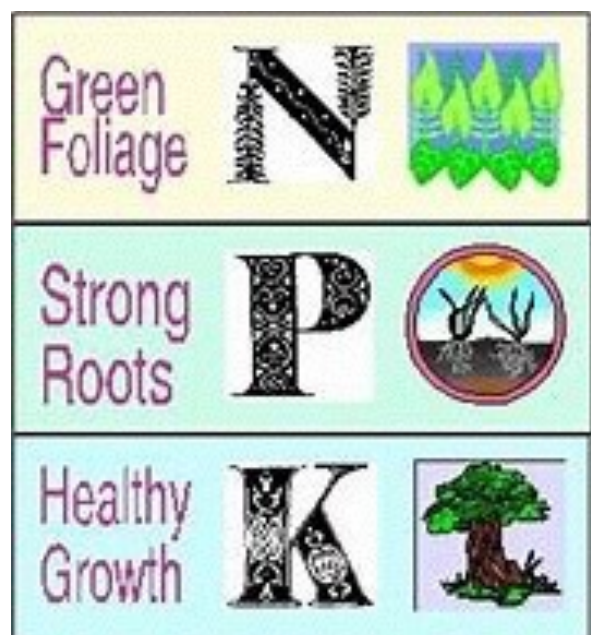
It’s more than NPK. It is the web of life from which all else emerges. We need to embrace this concept. It will help us grow better dahlias and help the planet sustain agriculture and human activity.

1 “A historical overview of fertilizer use” by Gary Herbert et al, University of Nebraska, AGPRO online, March 23, 2015

2 “It takes more than NPK” by Jason Hobson, Advancing Eco-Agriculture Newsletter, Spring 2012.

3 “A brief history of our deadly addiction to nitrogen fertilizer” by Tom Philpott, Mother Jones Magazine, April 19, 2013.

4 “Nitrogen fertilizer: agricultural breakthrough —and environmental bane by Sarah Simpson, Scientific American, March 20, 2009. —Tony can be reached at tony.evangelista@icloud.com.



5 tips for sharpening tools from A WAY TO GARDEN

(excerpt from A WAY TO GARDEN.
newsletter from Margaret Roach)
prepared by Carolyn Schaffner

- 1 Easiest of all, maybe: Simply rinse soil off digging tools after each use, by making a pit stop at the garden hose. Dry thoroughly. A stiff brush hanging by the tap would make for even more thorough cleaning.
- 2 It's often recommended to place a bucket of sand moistened with motor oil (even *used* motor oil, the prescription sometimes says) inside the garage, and quickly dip tools into the abrasive, lubricating mix a few times after using them. "But then you're going to introduce that motor-oil residue into your soil at the next use," says Blake—as in *ugh*. Use linseed oil instead, he recommends.
- 3 Linseed oil is likewise good for wood handles. Hang a rag near the sand bucket to give a quick wipe to wooden tool handles, too. Safety note: Do not wad up any oil-soaked rags, especially those soaked with linseed oil, or put them in an enclosed container as there is combustion risk. Allow the rag to dry in the open between uses, and when disposing, dry thoroughly first or soak with water before placing in a closed metal can. Blake adds a cautionary note: "The boiled linseed oil that is available today has a small amount of solvent added to it to keep it from hardening in the can, so after you apply it to your metal and wood, let it dry completely before using your tool, (about 24 hours). That way the solvent will have evaporated."

- 4 Most important of all: Get the tools indoors, and hang them up! Don't lean them against the garage wall, touching the floor—even if it's paved. Again, moisture is the enemy here.
- 5 Good-quality pruning shears should last a long time—unless you let sap and other residues build up on the blades. As if they were the silverware after supper, wash them. Yes! A quick stop at the sink, with soap and a nail brush or scrubby pad, is ideal. Dry well, and replenish lubrication on the pivot point only. A drop or two of a penetrating product such as 3-in-One oil is better than a lightweight spray lube, which evaporates quicker. Use mineral spirits to remove residues, but preferably prevent them in the future with the quick-wash routine. Invest in a sharpening device meant for shears—a whetstone, or a carbide sharpener, such as you might use for knives or scissors—to complete the care regimen, giving the blades an occasional pass.

Of course there's always this alternative: invest in stainless. It doesn't let you off the tool-care hook completely, but I have to say that I do appreciate my stainless border fork and spade, which have asked almost nothing of me in more than a decade of sturdy service.



Do Louisiana irises REALLY grow in the north?

Short answer: Yes.

by M.J. Urist

We know, and we know of irisarians growing Louisiana irises into Zone 4, and it's working! Locally, LA irises can be found in the Friendship Garden at Highland Park, the Ayame Garden at the University of Rochester, as well as quite a few private gardens. Their appeal extends to rain gardens, ponds and bogs to compost piles. There's no doubt there are idiosyncrasies to their culture and some varieties are less tolerant than others, but the obstacles are generally no more challenging than we encounter in any other bearded or non-bearded iris.

You may be interested to find out that the history of Louisiana irises in New York goes back much further than the past 20 years or so and, in fact, is closely tied to the early days of LA iris collection and cultivation.

While several native irises that would come to be known as Series *hexagonea* were described earlier, beginning with *Iris hexagona*, recorded by Walter in 1788, *I. fulva* (Ker-Gawler, 1812) and *I. brevicaulis* (Rafinesque, 1817), it was John Small who helped bring attention to the group. John Small, botanist, plant explorer and curator of The New York Botanical Garden, is credited with igniting the appetite for iris collection in Louisiana after viewing vast fields of *I. giganticaerulea* (Small, 1929) west of New Orleans in the mid-1920s. He became a regular visitor to the area during collecting trips, sometimes accompanied by J.C. Nicholls Jr. of Camillus, NY.

Information on J.C. Nicholls is scant, but Marie Caillet, a founder of the Society for Louisiana Irises (SLI) and prolific recorder of LA iris history, included mention of Nicholls in a piece written for the SLI newsletter in 1985.

To my knowledge, the first commercial grower to advertise and sell Louisiana irises was the Royal Iris Gardens, run by J.C. Nicholls, Jr. of Camillus, NY (near Ithaca). Their 1933 Catalogue was full of their recent collecting trips to Louisiana and the resulting irises they were offering



John Small's Weed Wagon

for sale. From the Forward of the catalog, "This year we are introducing a number of distinct forms and variations of the Louisiana Species, all of which were personally collected in the swamps and bayous of Louisiana. They are all fine colors and excellent additions to the Beardless field. Also, a fine form of *Prismatica*, collected by a friend."

Just in case you are curious about the conditions encountered by Small and Nicholls during these collecting trips, Nicholls' comments include this observation:

"We have had much pleasure in collecting them and enjoying their beauty in their native environment, and we are glad to be able to offer them that others may enjoy them also. But it is not an easy task to collect them in their native swamps; at best it is very hard work.

"One has to be both strong physically and have strong nerves to stand the tiring tramping through fields and ditches, wading in the mud and poisonous, green-scummed, waist deep black water of dismal cypress swamps where an alligator may be encountered at any moment, and where there are always plenty of water moccasins and occasionally rattlesnakes. One looks carefully first before reaching down to pull up an iris root. And the old cypress trees, bearded with long streamers of Spanish moss, with swelling butts, and wickedly pointed "knees" present a weird and most forbidding aspect. One never feels quite comfortable in among them, and always

heaves a sigh of relief when he comes back out into the warm, bright sunshine."

Maybe someone will find a residual patch of Nicholls' introductions hidden in a neighbor's backyard, but for now we can just enjoy the adaptability of modern hybrids to our own gardens. With the addition of *I. nelsonii* (Randolph, 1966) to the hybridizer's palette, the complex genome has lent a range of color, form, and hardiness to Series *hexagonea* that is working out well for northern growers who are ready to try something different.

To view the full article by Marie Caillet and reprints of many more archived SLI publications, please visit the SLI website at <https://www.louisianas.org/index.php>

Some of the Irises at Louisiana Iris Gardens

Tully NY

<http://www.louisianairisgardens.com>



'Princess Anna Maria' in the display bed
(Joseph Musacchia, R. 2005)



'Gentle Memories'
(J. Musacchia, 2016, awaiting registration)



'Iko Iko'
(J. Musacchia, 2018, awaiting registration)



'Mary Jo'
(Joseph Musacchia, R. 2015)



'Norah Jane'
(Patrick O'Connor, R. 2015)



'House of Blues'
(Patrick O'Connor, R. 2015)



'Annette Brown'
(Harry Wolford, R. 2013)



Why Grow Louisiana Irises?

by Joanne Bassett, WNYIS

I grow Louisiana Iris for two reasons:

1. They bloom for me so extend my iris season
2. I love the shocked expression on peoples' faces when I say I grow LAs. Here in WNY??

When I order LAs, I prepare my bed weeks before their arrival time. The bed is located in a sunny spot, and if its a wet spot, that's even better. I blend equal amounts of garden soil, dried old manure and compost. I buy from M.J. Urist because those iris are acclimated to our area.

The planted iris are mulched with pine needles from my back fields. In winter, the snow is additional mulch.

Since LAs like water, the garden is close to my water tap. I fertilize on a day when no rain is predicted so my plants will have time to absorb the acid type fertilizer. I use half the recommended dose and follow up with the other half three weeks later. It's added work, but my LAs bloom.

Because I am old, this year I decreased four of my garden spaces but then added a new garden, for I could not resist the LAs, and I knew M.J. would be generous. She was!

Now I am eagerly awaiting Spring to show my beauties.



LA 'Estelle Egan'
(P. O'Connor, R. 2013)



LA 'When Pigs Fly'
(P. O'Connor, R. 2012)



LA 'Acadian Sky'
(J. Musacchia, R. 2016)



LA 'Fourchon'
(J. Musacchia, R. 2017)



LA 'Rougaroux'
(J. Musacchia, R. 2015)

Another Opera Singer in the Garden

by Neil Houghton

When folks visit my garden, their first question is often, “Do you have ‘Beverly Sills’?” Well yes, I do! But I thought recently I wanted ‘Renée Fleming’ as well. Renée, the diva who recently retired from the Metropolitan Opera, is from the Rochester area, Churchville, to be precise.

The village had just adopted the Louisiana iris ‘Renée Fleming’ as its official flower. The mayor, Nancy Steedman, had asked Cara Hutchings, GRIS president, where she could obtain the ‘Renée Fleming’ iris. Cara passed the request on to me, and I thought,

“They’ve just adopted a flower that doesn’t exist!” A quick Iris Encyclopedia search ([here](#)) proved me wrong. This Louisiana iris was registered by Heather Pryor in 2001.

I did the only thing any sensible person would do while watching the snow fall and having an LA question: I referred Cara to M.J. Urist of Louisiana Iris Gardens in Tully, NY. M.J. gave Cara sage growing advice and located a source for the rhizome. Now all is well.

On SUNDAY, MARCH 11 at 2:00, M.J. will present a program on the iris gardens that 2018 AIS Convention attendees will see in New Orleans this April. Mayor Steedman will join GRIS Members for this program, and we hope you will, too.



LA ‘Renée Fleming’
(Heather Pryor, R. 2001)



**AMERICAN IRIS SOCIETY REGION 2 ANNUAL FALL MEETING
MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
HELD IN VICTOR, N.Y. – OCTOBER 21, 2017 AT 9:45 AM**

1. **Call to Order:** RVP Dorothy Stiefel presiding. Thank-you to everyone for attending.

2. **Attendees**

Dorothy Stiefel – RVP, Archives, Bylaws.
Kathryn Mohr – Asst RVP, Exhibitions/Awards; proxy for Linda Knipper, CHIS President.
Vaughn Sayles – Treasurer, Membership Chair
Kate Brewitt – Secretary, Webmaster
Cara Hutchings – GRIS President
Terry Laurin – ONIS President
Carolyn Schaffner – WNYIS President
Wendy Roller – Judges Training Chair

Absent and Excused:

Linda Knipper – CHIS President
Jim Robinowitz – HVIDS President
Ed Jowett – SOIS President
Betty Schnellinger – Newsletter Editor

Also in Attendance:

EJ Mattson – GRIS member

3. **Additions/corrections to the minutes of the Oct. 15, 2016 meeting.**

Motion by Cara Hutchings to accept the 2016 Board Meeting minutes as circulated. Motion passed.

4. **Treasurer's Report**

Vaughn Sayles gave his report as of October 21, 2017. There is a balance of \$8,809.35 in the bank for Region 2.

Budget: Vaughn Sayles proposed the Membership Challenge not be continued thus reducing the 2017/2018 budget by \$400, from \$2,485.00 to \$2,085.00.

Motion by Terry Laurin recommending the Treasurer's report, including the budget, be presented to the general membership. Motion passed.

5. **Committee Reports**

Audit Committee: Vaughn Sayles reported that the committee approved the Treasurer's audit.

2018 Region Meeting: Kathryn Mohr will approach Capital Hudson Iris Society (CHIS) regarding the hosting of the 2018 AIS Region 2 Annual Meeting.

Website: Kate Brewitt reported that website hits are down slightly from last year. Also, CHIS continues to be the most viewed webpage.

Newsletter Editor: Dorothy Stiefel reported for Betty Schnellinger. Betty thanked everyone for their submissions and asked that everyone keep sending pictures and articles.

Nominating Committee: Kathryn Mohr (Asst. RVP), Chair. Other members were Dorothy Stiefel (RVP) and Jim Robinowitz (member-at-large).

The following slate of Officers was proposed to the Board,

Dorothy Stiefel – Regional Vice President (RVP)

Kathryn Mohr – Assistant RVP

Vaughn Sayles – Treasurer

Kate Brewitt – Secretary

There were no nominations from the floor. Proposed slate of Officers will be presented to the general membership for voting.

Show Dates and Award Selection: Affiliate presidents/representatives chose their show awards as follows,

CHIS – June 2, 2018, passed on the award rotation until later date, after other Affiliates had made their selection.

GRIS – tentative date June 3, 2018 - The Ruth V. Blenis Award

WNYIS – June 2, 2018 - The Magdalen Award

ONIS– tentative date June 3, 2018 – The Ethel Anson S. Peckham Award

Representatives from HVIDS and SOIS were not present. They will be contacted and offered their choice of The William McGarvey Beardless Iris Award and The Wirz-Rettig Award.

Exhibitions/Awards Committee: Kathryn Mohr has formed a committee to review the Region 2 Show Rotation Guidelines. Committee members include Wendy Roller, Kate Brewitt and Cara Hutchings.

Award trophies were discussed: Should a smaller Paul Revere style bowl be used for the Ruth V. Blenis Award? The inscription on the William McGarvey Beardless Iris Award has to be shortened to fit on the current paperweight trophy; should the award be changed to a plaque? This discussion was tabled in favor of getting more details.

Bylaws Committee: Dorothy Stiefel reported that at the 2016 AIS Region 2 annual meeting it was proposed that the Region amend its bylaws to allow additional meetings and business transaction via email. The following Bylaw amendment was suggested (in italicized bold text).

ARTICLE VII – BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Section 2

The Board of Directors shall meet at least once annually at the time and place designated by the Regional Vice President. ***The Board of Directors may also meet and transact region business via electronic mail (e-mail) or via conference telephone call. These meetings and transactions will be reported in the next region newsletter. A printed copy of the report shall be placed in the permanent minutes book of the Region 2 Secretary.***

Motion by Carolyn Schaffner recommending the Bylaw amendment be presented to the general membership for voting. Motion passed.

Judges' Training Report: Wendy Roller reported that the annual report for Region 2 was filed with the American Iris Society on October 12, 2017. Changes were requested to the Region 2 Judges Roster for 2018.

1. Eugene and Mildred Koschara have requested AIS Retired Master Judge status.

2. Mary Jane Shanley has requested AIS Retired Master Judge status.
3. John W. Heimke requested to step down from his AIS judging responsibilities.

1. Affiliate reports

WNYIS – has a new Treasurer, Annette Kuhn. Marilee Farry will become the next President of WNYIS.

GRIS will email a report to all Board members.

ONIS emailed a report indicating they had four new members in 2017. Their annual meeting will be Sunday, Oct. 29th.

HVIDS President, Jim Robinowitz, emailed their report. The new society officers are: Sondra Tillou – President Keith Riddick – Vice President Sue Rivard – Secretary and Bill Larson – Treasurer.

2. Other business

Membership Committee: Vaughn Sayles indicated that eight people who reside in Region 2 have joined the AIS this year.

WNYIS was the winner of the 2017 Region 2 Membership Challenge with two new AIS members.

At the end of September 2017 Region 2 has 151 members.

There was discussion on how to increase sales at the club level through the use of the square credit card readers.

3. Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 10:30 am.



A few more photos from the 2017 AIS Region 2 Annual Fall Meeting.



Photos by Elizabeth

**AMERICAN IRIS SOCIETY REGION 2 ANNUAL FALL MEETING
MINUTES OF THE GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING
HELD IN VICTOR, N.Y. – OCTOBER 21, 2017 AT 10:45 AM**

1. Call to Order/Welcome

RVP Dorothy Stiefel, presiding. Everyone was welcomed and thanked for attending. Greater Rochester Iris Society (GRIS) was thanked for hosting the meeting. Chad Harris of Mt. Pleasant Iris Garden in Washougal, WA was also welcomed.

2. Roll Call

In Attendance were:

Dorothy Stiefel – RVP, Archives, Bylaws.

Kathryn Mohr – Assistant RVP, Exhibitions/Awards; proxy for Linda Knipper, CHIS President.

Vaughn Sayles – Treasurer, Membership Chair

Kate Brewitt – Secretary, Webmaster

Cara Hutchings – GRIS President

Terry Laurin – ONIS President

Carolyn Schaffner — WNYIS President

Wendy Roller – Judges' Training Chair

Absent and Excused:

Linda Knipper – CHIS President

Jim Robinowitz – HVIDS President

Ed Jowett – SOIS President

Betty Schnellinger – Newsletter Editor

Joanne Maier – Youth Chairperson

Also in Attendance

Dave Baehre, Joanne Bassett, David Blake, John Colley, Maria Gerbracht, Ellen Hallahan, Chad Harris, Neil Houghton, Nathan Hutchings, Donna James, Annette Kuhn, E.J. Mattson, Jeanne Roy, Janette Smith.

3. Additions/corrections to the minutes of the Oct. 15, 2016 meeting.

Correction to item #7 – “WNYIS for their donation of funds upon their disbanding.” should read “CNYIS for their donation of funds upon their disbanding.”

**Motion by Terry Laurin to accept the 2016 minutes as circulated with correction noted.
Motion carried.**

4. Bylaws Change

Dorothy Stiefel reported that at the 2016 AIS Region 2 annual meeting it was proposed that the Region amend its bylaws to allow additional meetings and business transaction via email. The following Bylaw amendment was proposed and published in the Spring 2017 AIS Region 2 newsletter.

ARTICLE VII – BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Section 2

The Board of Directors shall meet at least once annually at the time and place designated by the Regional Vice President. ***The Board of Directors may also meet and transact region business via electronic mail (e-mail) or via conference telephone call. These meetings***

and transactions will be reported in the next region newsletter. A printed copy of the report shall be placed in the permanent minutes book of the Region 2 Secretary.

Motion by Kathryn Mohr to accept proposed Bylaws change. Motion passed.

1. Committee Reports

Membership: Vaughn Sayles reported on the 2017 Membership Challenge. WNYIS is the winner bringing in two new AIS members. There were eight new members to the Region. As of the end of September 2017 AIS Region 2 has 151 members.

Treasurer's Report: Vaughn Sayles reported that as of October 21, 2017 there is a balance of \$8,809.35 in the bank for Region 2. It was also proposed that the Membership Challenge not be continued thus reducing the 2017/2018 budget by \$400; from \$2,485.00 to \$2,085.00.

Vaughn thanked Dorothy Stiefel for declining the reimbursement of the registration fee to the 2017 AIS National Convention. Discussion on the future of the current reimbursement fee practice was tabled.

Audit Committee: Vaughn Sayles reported that the committee approved the Treasurer's audit.

Motion by John Colley to accept the Board's recommendation to accept the Treasurer's Audit/Report. Motion passed.

2018 Region Meeting: Kathryn Mohr will discuss with the CHIS Board the possibility of them hosting the 2018 Annual Meeting.

Webmaster: Kate Brewitt reported that on average there were 171 visits per month. The webpage for Capital Hudson Iris Society (CHIS) continues to be the most popular.

Newsletter Editor: Dorothy Stiefel reported for Betty Schnellinger who gave sincere thanks to everyone who provided her with articles and pictures.

Show Dates and Regional Award Selection for 2018: Affiliate presidents/representatives chose their show awards as follows,

CHIS – June 2, 2018, passed on the award rotation until later date, after other affiliates had made their selection.

GRIS – tentative date June 3, 2018 - The Ruth V. Blenis Award

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ONIS– tentative date June 3, 2018 – The Ethel Anson S. Peckham Award

Representatives from HVIDS and SOIS were not present. They will be contacted and offered their choice of The William McGarvey Beardless Iris Award and The Wirz-Rettig Award.

Exhibitions/Awards Committee: Kathryn Mohr has formed a committee to review the Region 2 Show Rotation Guidelines. Committee members include Wendy Roller, Kate Brewitt and Cara Hutchings.

It was noted that the Board would be looking at the possibility of having a smaller Paul Revere style bowl for the Ruth V. Blenis Award and whether or not the inscription on the William McGarvey Beardless Iris Award should be shortened to fit on the trophy or the trophy changed to a plaque. Discussion will take place via email.

Archives: Dorothy Stiefel reported there was no report.

Creative Money: Dorothy Stiefel advised that a chair is needed for this committee. Interested parties can contact her. Responsibilities include making arrangements for the Silent Auction at the Region 2 Annual Meeting.

Judges' Training Report: Wendy Roller reported that the annual report for Region 2 was filed with the American Iris Society on October 12, 2017. Changes were requested to the Region 2 Judges Roster for 2018.

1. Eugene and Mildred Koschara have requested AIS Retired Master Judge status.
2. Mary Jane Shanley has requested AIS Retired Master Judge status.
3. John W. Heimke requested to step down from his AIS judging responsibilities.

Youth Committee: No report.

1. New Business

Election of Officers for 2018

Kathryn Mohr reported that the Nominating committee proposed the following slate of Officers, Dorothy Stiefel – Regional Vice President (RVP)

Kathryn Mohr – Assistant RVP

Kate Brewitt – Secretary

Vaughn Sayles – Treasurer

Since there were no nominations from the floor, it was requested that one vote be recorded in acceptance of the presented slate of officers.

Affiliate Reports

It was decided that affiliate reports would appear in each edition of the Region 2 newsletter. They will no longer be part of the Annual Meeting reporting.

Budget for 2018

Vaughn Sayles proposed the Membership Challenge not be continued thus reducing the 2017/2018 budget by \$400; from \$2,485.00 to \$2,085.00.

Motion by Terry Laurin to accept 2018 Budget. Motion passed.

2. Other business

Discussion on ways to attract new members and how to keep them followed.

3. Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 11:30 am.

Stay up to date with the latest information in AIS Region 2:

AIS Region 2 Web Site	http://aisregion2.org/region2_013.htm
GRIS Web Page	http://rochesteriris.blogspot.com

Other interesting and informative web sites:

American Iris Society	http://www.irises.org
AIS Iris Encyclopedia	http://wiki.irises.org/bin/view
Canadian Iris Society	http://www.cdn-iris.ca