

Region 2 of the American Iris Society NEWSLETTER

Spring 2020

Table of Contents

Who We Are	2
RVP Message.....	3
2019 Tall Bearded Iris Symposium	4
In Search of Borglum Iris – Update	5
Neorthochaeta dissimilis.....	6
Capital-Hudson Iris Society.....	9
Greater Rochester Iris Society.....	10
Ontario Iris Society	11
Western New York Iris Society.....	12
Youth Beat	13
2020 AIS National Convention	14
2020 Show Dates & Region 2 Awards	15
Judges' Training Report.....	16
2019 Region 2 Annual Meeting	17
The Irwin A. Conroe Award	18
2019 Board Meeting Minutes.....	20
2019 General Meeting Minutes.....	23
AIS Region 2 Membership Report	25
Treasurer's Report.....	26
Introduction to Videoconferencing.....	27
From the Editor's Desk.....	30



'Dial A Doll' (Burseen, 2016)

Who We Are

Region 2 of the American Iris Society

Officers

President & RVP

Kathryn Mohr – kemohrke@aol.com
Ballston Lake NY 12019-9748
(518) 952-4995

Vice President

Carolyn Schaffner - drsnooks@twc.com

Secretary - Position Open

Treasurer

Vaughn Sayles – vsayles47@aol.com
Ithaca NY 14850-9253
(607) 273-1355

Committee Chairpersons

Archives

Dorothy Stiefel – irisacher@aol.com
Spencer NY 14883
(607) 589-7465

Bylaws – Carolyn Schaffner (See Vice President)

Creative Money – Position Open

Awards & Exhibitions

Kathryn Mohr (See President & RVP)

Pat Salhoff – psalhoff @verizon.com
Delmar, NY 12054-3031
(518)-439-1484

Judges Training

Wendy Roller – gwr67@frontier.com
Rochester NY 14616-4133
(585) 621-8985

Membership - Vaughn Sayles (See Treasurer)

Newsletter Editor and Webmaster

Kate Brewitt – just1moreiris@gmail.com

Youth Committee - Position Open

Webmaster - Kate Brewitt (See Newsletter Editor)

Affiliate Chairpersons

Capital-Hudson Iris Society (CHIS)

Linda Knipper – linda.montanaro@gmail.com
Schenectady NY 12309
(518) 377-4987

Greater Rochester Iris Society (GRIS)

Cara Hutchings – thehutchings@mac.com
Rochester NY 14621
(585) 266-0302

Ontario Iris Society (ONIS)

Terrance Laurin – tlaurin@rogers.com

Western New York Iris Society (WNYIS)

Marilee Farry – farmare@aol.com
Cheektowaga, NY 14227-3140
(716) 668-1789



'Ally Oops' (D. Borglum, 2002)
Randolph-Perry Medal 2010

RVP Message

By Kathryn Mohr, President and AIS Region 2 RVP

Greetings, Iris Lovers



As I write this January is coming to a close. This month is always a hopeful time for me. The amount of daylight is increasing every day, the seed catalogs have arrived in the mail and new iris introductions are for sale on the web. There's finally time to look back at last year's growing season and begin planning for the future.

AIS Region 2 is going through some changes. I hope we can look back and preserve the social ties that have grown from our mutual love of growing irises while making the organization stronger by planning new ways of conducting business. Hopefully, the time, expense and energy saved can be spent having fun growing and enjoying irises and iris friendships.

Your Region 2 Board has been busy since the Region 2 Annual Meeting. Hosting annual meetings in their current format has become difficult for individual affiliates. Neil Houghton has led an effort to explore holding Region 2 meetings by videoconferencing. Future face-to-face meetings will still be held if Region 2 Affiliates are able to host them; videoconferencing offers an alternative.

The videoconferencing platform we tried is the same one that American Iris Society (AIS) uses for their monthly Board of Director meetings. Several videoconference "practice meetings" were held, with varying numbers of participants. There were some technical challenges but the last two meetings went smoothly. It was wonderful to see and hear Region 2 friends from the comfort of our homes.

A more detailed discussion of videoconferencing can be found elsewhere in the newsletter.

Region 2 bylaws chair Carolyn Schaffner has worked with the bylaws committee to draft an amendment to allow the Annual Board of Director and General Membership meetings to be held via videoconference.

The AIS 100th Anniversary Convention is May 18th – 23rd, 2020 in Newark, NJ, with garden tours and events in New York City and New Jersey including the New York Botanical Garden, Presby Memorial Gardens, and Wave Hill. It will be memorable. Plan to attend!

Local and national iris society membership has declined in recent years. Please continue to make guests at our meetings feel welcome, demonstrate how much fun volunteering can be and be available to mentor members who are willing to try out additional club responsibilities.

*'Sans Souci' (Van Houtte, R. 1894)
taken in Kathryn's Garden*



2019 Tall Bearded Iris Symposium

(American Iris Society vs Region 2 Favorite Irises)

Submitted by Dorothy Stiefel

Thank you to everyone who participated in the 2019 AIS Tall Bearded Iris Symposium. It is important for our regional members to vote so we can have a fair representation in the results.

There is usually quite a bit of difference in the AIS and the Region 2 rankings, but this year's vote really showed disagreement. It is especially interesting to see that the AIS number 1 choice, 'Dusky Challenger', earned but a single vote from Region 2 irisarians.

If you are thinking of adding to your TB collection this year, you might want to consider one of these beauties if you don't already own it! Pictures for all these irises can be found on the AIS WIKI:

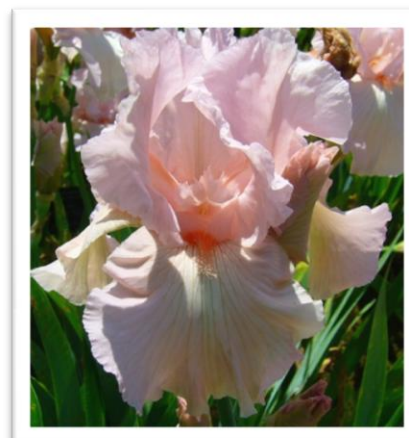
<http://wiki.irises.org>

<u>AIS Ranking</u>	<u>Region 2 Ranking</u>	<u>Cultivar</u>	<u>Hybridizer</u>
25	1	Immortality (pictured left)	Zurbrigg, 1982
5	2	Thornbird (pictured right)	Lauer, 1993



60	3	Hollywood Nights	Duncan, 2001
2	3	Jesse's Song	Williamson, 1983
27	3	Vanity	Hager, 1975
12	4	Beverly Sills	Hager, 1979
19	4	Celebration Song	Schreiner, 1993
6	4	Daughter of Stars	D. Spoon, 2001
13	5	Before The Storm	Innerst, 1989
27	5	Clarence	Zurbrigg, 1991
8	5	Conjuration	Byers, 1989
36	5	Slovak Prince	Mego, 2003
29 (tie)	5	Stepping Out	Schreiner, 1964

3	5	That's All Folks	Maryott, 2005
51 (tie)	5	Victoria Falls	Schreiner, 1977
1	Not in top 30	Dusky Challenger (1 vote only from Region 2)	Schreiner, 1986



From left to right, 'Hollywood Nights', 'Jesse's Song' and 'Vanity'



In Search of Borglum Iris Pictures Update

Terry Laurin would like to thank Donna Lowry who sent him pictures of some of the Borglums' introductions. These were uploaded to the AIS Iris Encyclopedia (a.k.a. WIKI). Thank you, Donna, for helping to make the AIS WIKI a better resource for iris lovers.

There are still many Borglum irises that require images. Please contact Terry (tlaurin@rogers.com) if you have any pictures to share.



'Seneca Cloud Puffs' (D. Borglum, 1995)



'Seneca Glacier Flow' (D. Borglum, 2000)

Neorthochaeta dissimilis

Iris Bud Fly – The Latest Chapter in Our Battle with this Pest

by Marty Schafer and Jan Sacks

Many siberian iris growers in New England have seen the damage from this pest. Not everyone knows what causes it. As shown in the photo (below left), a siberian flower, which looked normal in bud, shows serious damage when it opens. The center of the flower is chewed and disfigured while the falls are fine. On closer examination, the anthers have been hollowed out and the pollen is gone.



The damage is caused by a fly maggot, *Neorthochaeta dissimilis*, which we call informally *Orthochaeta* (or-thō-key'-tah). The maggot is small, about 1/4 to 3/8ths of an inch, and cream colored. It looks like a tiny caterpillar (pictured above right). There is much that we don't know about this pest, but we are learning more. The damage does not appear in the earliest blooming siberians but starts with the main siberian bloom and continues for about three or four weeks. Irises that bloom earlier, like *I. cristata*, and SDBs are not bothered, nor are later blooming irises like Japanese irises (except for the earliest ones).



Orthochaeta seems to concentrate on siberians, *I. versicolor* and *I. setosa*; but we are now seeing more and more damage in bearded, MTBs and TBs. It is possible to stop most of the damage with heavy duty chemicals like Cygon or Isotox sprays, but we don't use these.

For a long time we have tried picking off every damaged flower. We look for the maggot inside the damaged flower, but often they are gone. We discovered that they are fast workers. By the time the flower opens and shows you the damage, the maggot may have moved on to the next bud in the terminal or skipped the second bud and gone on to the third.

Very discouraging. On Shirley Pope's recommendation we pick off every damaged flower and put it in a bag for trash disposal, not the compost pile, and just keep doing it, hoping we would get them all. While this worked well for Shirley, she had a smaller garden than we do. It hasn't worked for us, we

have too many irises and as hard as we have tried, we can't get them all. It is also possible that there are wild *I. versicolor* in the swamps nearby. We continue to pick off all the damaged flowers we see, and it reduces the amount of damage a little, but we need to do more.

It helped to learn what the fly looked like. With help from Bob Hollingworth, we got a photo of the fly that lays the eggs that hatch into the maggots that eat our irises. Orange legs! Game changer. Immediately we started to see those flies on iris foliage. In addition to their orange legs we noticed that when they land on an iris leaf they immediately position themselves to face down the leaf toward the center of the clump.



Marty actually saw one lay an egg on a siberian bud. We placed yellow sticky cards throughout the siberians in the field hoping to catch the flies before they laid too many eggs on the iris buds. And we did catch quite a few flies. Hooray! But then we started catching little butterflies as well and decided that was unacceptable. We also tried catching the flies by sneaking up to a clump with a fly and clapping our hands, one on each side of the leaf. And we did get a few with that method, but they were too fast and usually got away. The next year we got a couple of battery-operated mosquito swatters, hoping to get them at a distance before they could dash away. And

we did manage to zap quite a few flies, but still there were tons of maggots and damage to the flowers (and we were beating up the iris leaves with the swatters).

We will spare you several other efforts that failed and move on to our latest strategies:

ONE. This method isn't perfect reduces the number of maggots and damaged flowers. Having watched the behavior for several years we noticed that *Orthochaeta* flies are solar powered. If the sun is out and the air is warm, they move fast. All you must do is look at them cross-eyed, and they fly away. BUT in the early morning, they are sluggish and can barely move. Around the time that siberians start blooming Marty goes out at 5 a.m. and walks through the siberian rows (If you want to try this, you might want to wear tall boots, as it is very dewy at this time of day.). Whenever he sees a fly on the foliage, he pinches it between his thumb and forefinger. Dead fly! Each day he counts. Some days he would get 12, some 20, some 35! We don't know how many eggs each fly lays, i.e. how many flowers each fly can ruin, but we expect it is many. So multiply Marty's numbers by how ever many eggs they can lay...we felt we were saving many, many flowers. And clearly, the total number of flowers damaged is reduced. But, despite doing this very faithfully in 2019 before the main bloom, there were still many damaged flowers in the main bloom. Bags of flowers are still going to the dump. We did not have time to check for flies in the early morning and remove all the damaged flowers during the day (and spend any time hybridizing). Still not good enough.



TWO. There is a product called Sierra Natural Science SNS 209. This is a rosemary-based product that you dilute and spray on the iris leaves. They say it is a systemic, meaning the leaves absorb the spray. However, it takes repeated sprayings to accomplish the goal of deterring pests. Therefore, you are supposed to start spraying way ahead of time before the target insects show up. Since spraying all our irises multiple times is quite a chore, we decided to do an experiment on ½ of a row. We did the first spray, probably later than we should have because we didn't know how early the Orthochaeta were showing up. Then we failed to do the repeated spraying. Nevertheless, there were positive results. That ½ row had fewer damaged flowers than any other part of the garden. So, we consider this a preliminary positive result and planned to do better. We need to figure out a way to do it on a grand scale, so it is not so time consuming. It seems to be a good product that works on other pests including aphids. Check out Sierra Natural Science on the web. They are a California company. Take note that the bottle of SNS 209 should not be left in the sun, and the spray should not be applied when it is sunny. This stuff is not cheap.

POSTSCRIPT

There is much still to learn about the life cycle of Neothochaeta dissimilis. For a while we didn't even know if the flies emerged in the fall, like iris borer moths, or went south for the winter. Now we think the pupae winter over here and emerge as flies in the spring. We know that after eating the flower parts, some maggots move down inside the iris stem (we don't know if this is always true) and at some point



turn into a little brown pupa, a bit larger than the maggot (pictured left). We have found a few inside stalks, but we haven't found nearly enough to account for all the damage. Do they all stay inside the stalk or do some drop and pupate in the ground like iris borer? Where do these pupae winter over and how can we expose them to winter weather or predation? As another way to control them would it be possible to develop lures (traps) for the adults? Or are there other solutions? We have thought it would be great to find an entomology student who would want to study this pest's life cycle, any ideas?

The Newsletter of Region 2 of the American Iris Society is published twice a year and e-mailed free to all members of the American Iris Society residing in Region 2 (New York State, Ontario, and Quebec). Members without e-mail 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. It is appreciated that a copy of the publication is provided to the editor.

COPY DEADLINES

Spring Issue February 1

Fall Issue August 1

(Please note, submissions may be edited for style and clarity.)

Editor: Kate Brewitt – just1moreiris@gmail.com

Capital-Hudson Iris Society (CHIS)

Submitted by Euthemia Matsoukas, Affiliate Newsletter Editor

Capital Hudson Iris Society has had some excellent speakers for our monthly meetings. In September, Dave Burdick returned to our club. But this time it wasn't daffodils that he spoke about (he used to specialize in them) but "Colchicums and More". The group was excited about these lovely fall flowering bulbs and pleased that he still had some left to sell at the end of the talk. See his website www.Daffodilsandmore.com if you're interested in finding out more about colchicums.

In October our own Joanne Maier taught members how to decorate Zentangle-style on miniature pumpkins, flat rocks and stones for the garden, and ceramic tiles. Zentangle is a relaxing art form using thin permanent markers on a variety of surfaces. The club supplied miniature pumpkins, some white, some orange, some mottled, and washed stones and tiles, and lots of Sharpies. It was fun and easy, and people left very happy with their works of art. It was a pleasure to see how many talented members there are in our club – gardening does attract artists!

Our November-December meeting was held in mid-November when we had our annual holiday potluck lunch. Besides all the wonderful food people brought, there was a gift exchange and gift certificates from a range of iris growers and local nurseries. Kathryn Mohr brought some beautiful slides of the 2019 Convention in California for us to enjoy while we ate and opened presents.

Cathie Gifford, a Master Gardener Volunteer from Albany County Cooperative Extension, gave a program on Clematis at the January meeting, focusing on varieties that grow well in the Capital District. She recommended Hummingbird Farm in Maine as a source for cold-hardy clematis.
<http://hummingbirdfarm.net>.

In February we joined with the Upstate NY Hosta Society and the Hudson-Adirondack Daylily Society for our annual Doldrums Party, a potluck luncheon. This year the event was coordinated by the Hosta Society. The speaker was Mathew Benson, a renowned garden photographer and owner of Stonegate Farm in the Hudson Valley. His talk was entitled "The PhotoGraphic Garden" which focused on effective use of your iPhone for photographs in your garden.

If you have any questions on the above, feel free to contact Euthemia Matsoukas at the email address below. And do feel free to attend any of our meetings – we'd love to have you.



Enjoying the Annual Doldrums Luncheon

CHIS Officers:

CHIS Chair: Linda Knipper, Linda.Montanaro@gmail.com 518 377-4987

Vice Chairs: Dan and Joanne Maier, Danjomaier@gmail.com 518 449-8480

Secretary: Virginia Dorwaldt, vmdorwaldt@gmail.com 518 439-3110

Treasurer: Don Salhoff, driris2000@hotmail.com 518 439-1484

Newsletter editor: Euthemia Matsoukas, EuthemiaMatsoukas@gmail.com 518 439-3758

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

Greater Rochester Iris Society (GRIS)

Submitted by Cara Hutchings, Affiliate Chair

The Greater Rochester Iris Society is still developing their calendar for 2020, but we do have some exciting things planned so far.

Our first meeting of the year will be March 15. Diane Henderson, a local garden and bird enthusiast will be giving a talk on identifying woodpeckers. She will also offer a few tips on attracting birds to your garden.

Next, on April 19, our own Neil Houghton will give information and tips about photographing your garden.

Our iris show is planned for June 7th. We have The William McGarvey Beardless Iris Award for the highest placed beardless iris.

We are planning a picnic during the summer, and then our annual sale will be August 8th and 9th.

Back to meetings in the fall, with September 13 and October 11 as the tentative dates.

All our meetings are held at St. John's Episcopal Church Hall in Honeoye Falls, NY starting at 2:00 pm.

Hope to see you at our events,

GRIS Officers:

President: Cara Hutchings thehutchings@mac.com

Vice President: Neil Houghton images@irises.org

Secretary/Treasurer: Nate Hutchings thehutchings@mac.com



Neil with Hugh Stout at the Annual Meeting

Ontario Iris Society (ONIS)

Submitted by Kate Brewitt, Affiliate Secretary

Our first event of the year was on February 22nd when we attended 'Get the Jump on Spring and Seedy Saturday' at the Toronto Botanical Garden (TBG). It was a beautiful sunny day which must be the reason why so many people visited the TBG for this event. Lots of eager gardeners came out to meet up with gardening friends, listen to presentations and watch demonstrations. We had a very successful day with four new members joining our group.



*Jinny, Terry and Lyn at
'Get The Jump On Spring'*

In March ONIS will be attending two other Seedy Saturdays.

March 7 – Newmarket Seedy Saturday held at the Newmarket Community Centre, 200 Doug Duncan Drive, Newmarket, ON – 10 am to 2 pm.

March 28 – Innisfil Seedy Saturday held at the Innisfil ideaLAB & Library, Lakeshore Branch, 967 Innisfil Beach Road, Innisfil, ON – 10 am to 3 pm.

Our President's Garden, Aurora Borealis Iris Garden, will be open by request. E-mail: tlaurin@rogers.com if you would like to visit.

Our group will be hosting the following in the upcoming months. They all take place at the Toronto Botanical Garden, 777 Lawrence Avenue E., Toronto, ON.

June 7 - ONIS Annual Flower Show and Sale – along with our usual club awards this year we will be awarding The Ruth V. Blenis Award, an AIS Region 2 award for the tall bearded iris winning Best of Show. Our Show Schedule can be found on our website.

August 9 – ONIS Annual Rhizome Auction and Sale.

For more details on these events visit our website at <https://sites.google.com/site/ontarioirissociety/> or look us up on FACEBOOK!

ONIS Officers:

President: Terrance Laurin – tlaurin@rogers.com

Vice President: Jinny Missons jojimissons@sympatico.com

Secretary: Kate Brewitt – kbrewitt@rogers.com

Treasurer: Lyn Hickey – lhickey94@hotmail.com

Western New York Iris Society (WNYIS)

Submitted by Marilee Farry, Affiliate Chair

Our first Board and planning meeting of 2020 was held at our new venue, the Julia Boyer Reinstein Library. It is the 60th Anniversary of WNYIS and we have approved an exciting Calendar of Events. We were pleased that four people attended this meeting after reading a notice in the newspaper placed by our Publicity person, Velma. Besides the board meeting agenda, we compiled a list of irises that grow very well in the climate of western New York based on selected criterion. This will be a continuous list as more cultivars that meet this criterion are added.

Joanne Bassett will start the first regular meeting for 2020 on March 1. She will present a slide show and talk about 'Iris Hybridization'.

Plantasia is being held March 19 to March 22 at The Fairgrounds Event Center and Artisan Hall in Hamburg, NY. Marilee Farry plans on entering an educational display on the "AIS Centennial and WNYIS 60th Anniversary" in the National Accredited Flower Show. She will be helped by Velma Szczesny

On April 5th, to celebrate the 2020 Centennial of AIS and the 60th anniversary of WNYIS, three of our judges will be giving a presentation on the beautiful iris gardens of three former members. We will answer any questions regarding preparation for our upcoming iris show on June 6th. To help advertise our show we will be decorating the library window for display throughout May

We are in the planning stages of a joint meeting with GRIS on May 3rd. Three judges will describe the qualities of an iris design and how to interpret the theme provided. We are hoping to offer Judges' Training, pending approval.

On Saturday, June 6th, WNYIS will be holding its accredited iris show. It is free and open to the public and anyone may submit an entry. Members will be available to assist any non-members with their entries. Potted irises will be on sale as well as handouts for people interested in iris horticulture.

During the summer months Marilee will co-ordinate the visitations to the various garden sites. Dates and times will depend on the various bloom times of the different iris classes. Pending approval, there may also be Garden Training.

Our final meeting of the year will be on Sunday, September 9th when we will elect new officers and approve the Budget for 2021. A super potluck luncheon is scheduled to follow the business meeting. Awards will be presented along with fun and games and funny prizes.

WNYIS Officers:

President: Marilee Farry – farmare@aol.com

Vice President: Maria Gerbracht – mrgerbracht@verizon.net

Secretary: Velma Szczesny – frank123451@icloud.com

Treasurer: Annette Kuhn – akuhn@rich.com

Youth Beat

AIS Region 2 Youth Rock!

Congratulations to Mason, one of AIS Region 2's youth members.



Every year AIS Youth members are given a picture to colour. Entries are judged and winners are announced. This year Mason represented AIS Region 2 in this contest and, as proudly reported by his grandma Kathryn, placed third in the 10 to 12 age group in the coloring contest. He also received a creativity award. Way to go, Mason!



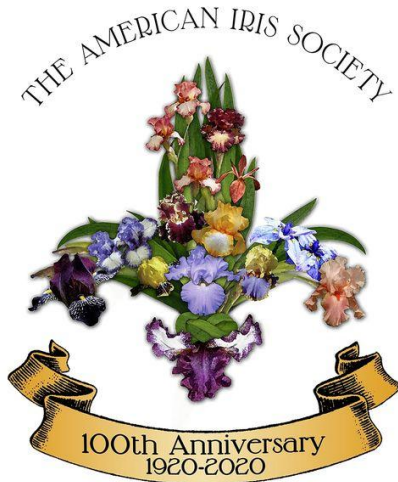
AIS Region 2 is looking for a coordinator for their youth group. If you like to work with children and like growing irises there is a need for your skill set. Please contact our RVP, Kathryn Mohr, if you are interested.

For more information on the AIS Youth group go to their website, www.aisyouth.com.

A Centennial Celebration

2020 American Iris Society National Convention

May 18 - 23, 2020



This year's convention hotel is the Newark Liberty International Airport in Newark, New Jersey. The registration form, convention schedule, a link to the hotel and other information are available on the convention website: <https://2020irisconvention.org>

The registration deadline is March 31, 2020.

The celebrations begin on Monday, May 18 with an optional tour to High Line NYC. This 1.45-mile-long elevated linear park, greenway and rail trail was created on a former New York Central Railroad spur on the west side of Manhattan. You will be on your own to enjoy the garden and city sites. If you have not been to the High Line, you will be thrilled.

On Tuesday is another optional tour to Liberty Park. A bus will drop you off at New Jersey's Liberty State Park. From here you may be able to take a boat across the river to visit on your own, the Statue of Liberty, Ellis Island, or stay within the park and visit the Central Railroad of New Jersey Terminal, and the Liberty Science Center. You may also cross the Hudson River into Manhattan. You choose where to go. [Note: to go up the Statue of Liberty you need to purchase tickets advance. You can buy these on the Statue of Liberty National Monument website. You may visit the Statue of Liberty Park, but without tickets you cannot go up the statue.]

Liberty State Park (Optional Tour) - <https://www.state.nj.us/dep/parksandforests/parks/liberty.html>

The High Line NYC (Optional Tour) - <https://www.thehighline.org/>

A Special Centennial Welcome Banquet will be held Wednesday evening with keynote speaker Kirk Ryan Brown. Mr. Brown is President of the Garden Writers Association Foundation: The Foundation for Garden Communicators, and has served that organization in many other volunteer capacities. He is a horticulturist, world-recognized botanist, keynote speaker, business lecturer and dramatist appearing across the United States and Canada.

The garden tours will take place on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday.

Presby Memorial Iris Gardens
<http://presbyirisgardens.org/wordpress/>

Wave Hill Public Gardens
<https://www.wavehill.org/>

New York Botanical Gardens
<https://www.nybg.org/>

Finally, Saturday evening will be the Awards Banquet where recipients of last year's awards will be honored. Various other awards will be presented as well.

International Iris Competition: For the first time in AIS history an International Iris Competition will be held during the convention at Presby Memorial Iris Gardens. A panel of international judges will be charged with reviewing the irises. The results will be viewed by Convention attendees, and the winners will be presented with their respective awards during the Closing Banquet.

2020 Show Dates and Region 2 Awards

Submitted by Kathryn Mohr, Show Chair

These shows are open to anyone who has the desire to exhibit bloom stalks from their gardens, not just members. If you would like to learn how to exhibit, members will be on hand who are more than willing to lend a hand. Contact your local affiliate for a copy of their Show Schedule and come prepared to have some fun! Mark your calendars!

June 1 - Capital-Hudson Iris Society (CHIS)

AIS Region 2 Award: The Ethel Anson S. Peckham Award – awarded to the highest placed historic iris.
Location and Time TBD

Show Chair: Kathryn Mohr – for details e-mail kemohrke@aol.com or call - (518) 952-4995

June 6 - Western New York Iris Society (WNYIS)

AIS Region 2 Award: The Magdalen Award – awarded to the highest placed Median iris.
Location TBD

Show Chair: Marilee Farry – for details email farmare@aol.com.

June 7 - Greater Rochester Iris Society (GRIS)

AIS Region 2 Award: The William McGarvey Beardless Iris Award – awarded to the highest placed beardless iris.

Location: Marketplace Mall, 1 Miracle Mile Drive, Rochester, NY 14623

Show Chair: Cara Hutchings – for details thehutchings@me.com.

June 7 - Ontario Iris Society (ONIS)

AIS Region 2 Award: The Ruth V. Blenis Award – awarded to a tall bearded iris winning Best of Show.

Location: Toronto Botanical Garden, 777 Lawrence Avenue East, Toronto, ON M3C 1P2

Setup starts at 10 am for those entering bloom stalks. Judging commences at 11:45 am.

Show Chair: Terry Laurin – for details e-mail tlaurin@rogers.com.



Do you support Region 2 of the American Iris Society? Do you shop on-line? If you shop on Amazon you will be able to have .5% of eligible purchase prices donated to Region 2 of the American Iris Society*. In light of the changes that will be taking place in Region 2 additional sources of revenue will be beneficial. There is no cost to Region 2 and there is no additional cost to you. It is a win-win scenario if you make purchases this way.

Use the following link <https://smile.amazon.com/ch/31-1743524> to log directly into **AMAZON SMILE**. You won't even have to search for Region 2 of the American Iris Society and 0.5% of the price of your purchases will be donated to Region 2.

*(Note: this is available to US Amazon shoppers only.)

Judges' Training Report

Submitted by Wendy Roller, JT Chair for AIS Region 2

REGION 2 OF THE AMERICAN IRIS SOCIETY – JUDGES and STUDENT JUDGES Status Roster – as of January 1, 2020

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

Please note that one change occurred in this roster as of January 1, 2020

- Raymond (Sandy) Ives has requested AIS Retired Master Judge status. Raymond, who lives in Ottawa, Ontario, Canada, started serving the American Iris Society as a Garden/Exhibition Judge in 1999 and then as a Master Judge in 2013.

SPRING 2020 JUDGES TRAINING COURSES IN REGION 2

No judges training events are currently in the planning stages for the 2020 iris bloom season.

PLEASE NOTE: Judges training sessions must be approved in advance by the Region 2 Judges Training Chairperson. Please let Wendy Roller know of any additional judges training sessions being proposed within the region during the year 2020. The deadline to have information included in the May mailing to the judges is April 15, 2020.

2019 AIS Region 2 Annual Meeting

By Kate Brewitt, Editor

The Region 2 Annual Meeting weekend started out with a group of us meeting for dinner Friday evening at The Brewery Pub and Grill, a local pub in Honeoye Falls, NY. Here in a cozy atmosphere (we had our

own room!) we socialized over good food with good company. We talked about our irises and our gardens among other things.

About 20 people attended the 2019 AIS Region 2 annual meeting hosted by Greater Rochester Iris Society (GRIS) at the First Presbyterian Church in Honeoye Falls, NY. Neil and Cara organized a first-rate meeting while others pitched in to help with the running of the meeting. Thanks to Kathryn, Betty, Wendy, Gary, EJ, Vaughn and Terry for your help. Thanks also to Kyle Crawford who provided us with our scrumptious luncheon.



David Saxby, Jody Nolin, Hugh Stout and Neil Houghton

Hugh Stout, owner of Stout Gardens at Dancing Tree in Oklahoma City, was our guest speaker. In his presentation on 'The Diversity of Bearded Irises' Hugh showed slides of irises which highlighted the advancements in their form and color. After the presentation there was an auction of some of Hugh's introductions. Some lucky Region 2 members went home with a new plant, or plants, for their garden.

He also provided us with two sessions of Judges' Training: one hour on 'Exhibition Judging of Tall Bearded Irises', and two hours on 'Garden Judging of Tall Bearded Irises'.

Thanks to everyone who contributed items to the Silent Auction and to those who generously bid on those items. There were many plants in the offering as well as books, prints and quilted wall hangings. Many smiling faces were seen as winning bidders paid for their treasures.

The best part of the Annual Meeting weekend is catching up with fellow iris lovers. We share experiences, we laugh, we learn but most of all we enjoy each other's company. Thanks to everyone who joined us!



At the Registration Table, Marilee and Neil

More Pictures from the 2019 Region 2 Annual Meeting



Donna sharing a photograph with Betty



Jody and Wendy discussing irises



A Proud Family

*Back row: Kathryn, RVP, Wendy, JT Chair, Michael
Front row: Evie (with certificate) and Aubrey*



E.J. and Carolyn

The Irwin A. Conroe Distinguished Service Award

Presented by Kathryn Mohr, RVP

The recipient of the Irwin A. Conroe Distinguished Service Award for 2019 is Carolyn Schaffner. Carolyn has been an AIS member since 1985. Since 1993 she has served the American Iris Society as a Garden/Exhibition judge and a Master Judge. She has requested AIS Retired Master Judge status.



She was one of two Western New York Iris Society public relations dynamos in 1993, resulting in a sold-out iris sale that year. Other events and PR in which she was heavily involved led to a burst of energy and growth in WNYIS and the Area won the AIS membership contest that year.

She has been involved in Region 2 activities as an Empire State Iris Society Board of Directors member, Region 2 Youth Committee Chairperson, ESIS Secretary, and Region 2 By-laws Committee Chairperson. She was one of the key planners of the 2003 Beardless & Borderless Mini Convention in Hamilton, Ontario.

She has always been a vital member of WNYIS, most recently serving as President for four years. She has served as editor of the WNYIS newsletter *Iris Views*.

Region 2 is pleased to honor Carolyn Schaffner with the Irwin A. Conroe Distinguished Service Award.

AMERICAN IRIS SOCIETY REGION 2 ANNUAL FALL MEETING
MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
HELD IN HONEOYE FALLS, N.Y. – OCTOBER 5, 2019 AT 9:00 AM

1. Call to order

Regional Vice President (RVP) Kathryn Mohr presiding. Meeting called to order at 9:00 am. Those in attendance were thanked for coming. Jody Nolin, AIS President was welcomed.

2. Roll call: Officers, Affiliate Chairpersons. Committee Chairs

Kathryn Mohr – RVP and President

Carolyn Schaffner – Assistant RVP and Vice President

Vaughn Sayles - Treasurer

Kate Brewitt – Secretary, Newsletter Editor and Webmaster

Neil Houghton – Greater Rochester Iris Society, representative for Cara Hutchings

Terry Laurin – Ontario Iris Society (ONIS) President

Marilee Farry – Western New York Iris Society (WNYIS) President

Wendy Roller - Judges Training Chair

Other Attendees

EJ Mattson, Betty Schnellinger, Jody Nolin - AIS President

Absent and Excused

Linda Knipper – Capital-Hudson Iris Society (CHIS) President, Cara Hutchings – Greater Rochester Iris Society (GRIS) President, Dorothy Stiefel – Archives, Pat Salhoff – Awards & Exhibitions co-chair

3. Additions/corrections to the minutes of Oct. 20, 2018 board meeting

Motion by Vaughn Sayles to accept the 2018 Board Meeting minutes as circulated. Motion passed.

Motion by Terry Laurin to amend the minutes for the General Meeting of October 21, 2017 to correctly reflect that the Bylaw Change was to Article VIII and not Article VII as published. Motion passed.

4. Treasurer's Report and 2020 Budget

Vaughn Sayles reported that the Region is in good shape financially. Looking ahead to 2020, Vaughn recommended an increase in the budget by \$25 over 2019 due to an increase in iHost website hosting fees. A total operating budget for 2020 of \$1,715.00 was proposed.

It was requested that Kate Brewitt investigate costs of different hosting sites.

Motion by Neil Houghton to accept the Treasurer's report and proposed 2020 Budget. Motion passed.

5. Committee Reports:

Archives – Dorothy Stiefel had nothing to report

Awards & Exhibitions – Kathryn Mohr reported that Pat Salhoff was appointed as co-chair for this committee. She would like to appoint an additional co-chair.

Bylaws – Kathryn Mohr reported that Dorothy Stiefel has resigned as committee chair. Carolyn Schaffner has agreed to become the new committee chair.

Judges Training – Wendy Roller reported that all Judges in the region have completed their three-year judges training requirements. There are ten Active Masters; seven Retired Masters and nine Garden/Exhibition judges plus one Apprentice judge.

Membership – Vaughn Sayles reported that in addition to the four affiliate memberships and the four organizational memberships there are 98 members of the American Iris Society who reside in Region 2. AIS Region 2 welcomed four new members this year.

Newsletter – Kate Brewitt reported that two editions came out on time in 2019. Recommendation made to adopt the new AIS privacy policy regarding physical addresses in either print or online publications.

Motion by Neil Houghton to use American Iris Society physical address authorization and release form. Motion passed.

All Board members who wish to have their physical addresses published should submit their signed form to the editor/webmaster, Kate Brewitt.

Youth – Kathryn Mohr reported that Joanne Maier has stepped down as Youth Committee chair. The position remains open.

Webmaster – Kate Brewitt reported that the website averages 1400 visits per month. Hosting fee increases were discussed in the budget.

6. Affiliate Reports

WNYIS – Marilee Farry reported that it was agreed the group would continue year by year. In 2019 there was a large effort to recruit new members. They also changed the venue for their meetings. Their show was relatively small. Annette is preparing their 19/20 budget. Officers for the 2019/2020 year are: President – Marilee Farry, Vice-President – Maria Gerbracht, Treasurer – Annette Kuhn, Secretary – David Bahre.

ONIS – Terry Laurin reported that the ONIS annual meeting is Sunday October 27 at the President's home in Aurora with lunch afterwards at a local Aurora restaurant. Lunch is paid for by ONIS for those who attend.

GRIS – Neil Houghton reported that membership continues to be an issue. There are plans to review. Use of the 'square' as a payment option has increased sales. A change in venue for their sale to a nursery also resulted in increased sales. They are looking for a new venue for 2020 show. Marilee thanked Neil for providing WNYIS with the leftovers from their rhizome sale.

CHIS – Kathryn Mohr reported that there are plenty of workers. They hope to implement a process of training others into new positions in the event of a need for a back-up.

7. New Business

2020 Budget - Vaughn Sayles previously reported the proposed 2020 budget with his Treasurer's Report.

Nominating Committee - Carolyn Schaffner proposed the following slate of Officers,

Kathryn Mohr – Regional Vice President (RVP)

Carolyn Schaffner – Assistant RVP

Vaughn Sayles – Treasurer

Secretary position to remain open.

There were no nominations from the floor.

Motion by Marilee Farry to present the proposed slate of officers to General membership. Motion passed.

2020 Region 2 Awards Rotation and Show Dates – Kathryn Mohr led the discussion for the selection of the 2020 show dates and Region 2 awards. The results are as follows,

ONIS – June 7 (tentative) – The Ruth V. Blenis Award

CHIS – June 1 – The Ethel Anson S. Peckham Award for Historic Iris

GRIS – June 7 – The William McGarvey Beardless Iris Award

WNYIS – June 6 (tentative) – The Magdalen Award

Future Regional Meetings – There was a discussion regarding the future of Region 2 meetings. Since none of the affiliates are able to host a meeting different options, such as teleconference calls and video calls, were discussed. Jody Nolin stated the AIS uses ZOOM.com, a recorded video call which is free for 40 minutes. Jody will look into the possibility of Region 2 using the AIS' ZOOM account.

Neil Houghton passed out an article on conference call etiquette.

Motion by Carolyn Schaffner to allow Region 2 to hold electronic meetings. Motion passed.

Kathryn appointed Carolyn Schaffner as committee chair to work on the required bylaw changes to allow Region 2 to hold electronic meetings. Carolyn will select the other committee members.

Kathryn appointed a committee to explore teleconference and videoconference options available so Region 2 can hold electronic meetings in the future; Neil Houghton - committee chair, Carolyn Schaffner and Marilee Farry.

Kathryn suggested that a Spring meeting may be necessary to pass the bylaw changes before next year's annual meeting. A meeting place in central New York state was recommended.

8. Additional Business

Terry Laurin reported that the Canadian Iris Society (CIS) and its affiliate, the Southern Ontario Iris Society (SOIS), are disbanding. CIS will communicate to its members that ONIS is offering a one-year free e-membership to those interested.

9. Adjourn

Meeting was adjourned at 10:25 am.

Below Left: EJ Mattson, Jody Nolin and Vaughn Sayles

Below Right: Jinny Missons, Hugh Stout and Marilee Farry



AMERICAN IRIS SOCIETY REGION 2 ANNUAL FALL MEETING
MINUTES OF THE GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING
HELD IN HONEOYE FALLS, N.Y. – OCTOBER 5, 2019 AT 10:45 AM

1. Call to Order/Welcome

Regional Vice President (RVP) Kathryn Mohr presiding. The meeting was called to order at 11:00 am. Everyone was welcomed and thanked for attending. Special guest Jody Nolin, AIS President, was introduced as well as guest speaker, Hugh Stout. Special recognition was given to Neil, Cara, Betty and Wendy, members of the Greater Rochester Iris Society who organized the meeting.

2. Roll Call - by Secretary Kate Brewitt

Kathryn Mohr - RVP, Awards & Exhibitions co-chair
Carolyn Schaffner - Assistant RVP, Bylaws Chair
Vaughn Sayles - Treasurer, Membership Chair
Kate Brewitt - Secretary, Newsletter Editor, Webmaster
Neil Houghton – Greater Rochester Iris Society (GRIS), representative for Cara Hutchings
Terry Laurin – Ontario Iris Society (ONIS) President
Marilee Farry – Western New York Iris Society (WNYIS) President
Wendy Roller - Judges Training Chair

Other Attendees

Joanne Bassett, Donna Lowry, E.J. Mattson, Jinny Missons, Jody Nolin - AIS President, Jean Reitzel, Aubrey Roller, Evelyn Roller, Michael Roller, Betty Schnellinger, Hugh Stout

Absent and Excused

Linda Knipper – Capital-Hudson Iris Society (CHIS) President, Cara Hutchings – GRIS President, Dorothy Stiefel – Archives, Pat Salhoff - Awards co-chair

3. Additions/corrections to the minutes of the Oct. 20, 2018 meeting

Motion by Terry Laurin to accept the 2018 minutes as circulated. Motion passed.

4. Treasurer's Report

Vaughn Sayles reported that the Region is in a sound financial position.

Motion by Neil Houghton to accept the Treasurer's Report. Motion passed.

5. Committee Reports

Archives Committee – Dorothy Stiefel had nothing to report.

Awards & Exhibitions – Kathryn Mohr reported that Pat Salhoff volunteered to co-chair this committee. Kathryn is looking for an additional co-chair. Printouts of the updated award specifications were made available.

Kathryn presented the AIS Region 2 show awards as follows,
The Magdalen Award to Evelyn Roller (GRIS). Aubrey Roller was second runner-up at the GRIS show.
The Ruth V. Blenis Award to Maria Gerbracht (WNYIS). Marilee Farry accepted the award for Maria.
The William McGarvey Award to Kate Brewitt (ONIS).
The Ethel Anson S. Peckham for Historic Iris to Virginia Dorvaldt (CHIS)
The Irwin A. Conroe Distinguished Service Award to Carolyn Schnaffer (WNYIS)

Bylaws Committee – Kathryn Mohr reported that a new Bylaw Committee has been formed with Carolyn Schaffner as Committee Chair. Once Carolyn has selected additional committee members they will determine the necessary bylaw changes to allow Region 2 to hold electronic meetings.

Judges Training – Wendy Roller reported that all Judges in the region have completed their three-year judges training requirements. There are 10 Active Masters; 7 Retired Masters and 9 Garden/Exhibition judges plus 1 Apprentice judge.

Membership – Vaughn Sayles reported that in addition to the four affiliate memberships and the four organizational memberships there are 98 members of the American Iris Society who reside in Region 2. AIS Region 2 welcomed four new members this year.

Newsletter – Kate Brewitt reported that two editions came out on time in 2019.

Youth – Kathryn Mohr reported that Joanne Maier has stepped down as Youth Committee chair. Anyone interested in volunteering for the position should contact her. Kathryn also urged each affiliate to reach out to local youth.

Webmaster – Kate Brewitt reported that the website averages 1400 visits per month.

6. New Business

2020 Budget - Vaughn Sayles reported the proposed 2020 budget was for \$1,715.00. This was an increase of \$25 over 2019 due to increased website hosting fees. This still includes \$1,000 allotment for an affiliate who hosts the 2020 annual meeting.

Motion by Terry Laurin to accept the 2020 budget. Motion passed.

Loss of an Affiliate - Terry Laurin reported that the Canadian Iris Society (CIS) and its affiliate, the Southern Ontario Iris Society (SOIS), are disbanding. CIS will communicate to its members that ONIS is offering a free one-year e-membership to those interested.

2020 Region 2 Awards Rotation and Show Dates – Kathryn Mohr reported the Affiliates 2020 show dates and Region 2 awards selection as follows,

ONIS – June 7 (tentative) – The Ruth V. Blenis Award

CHIS – June 1 – The Ethel Anson S. Peckham Award for Historic Iris

GRIS – June 7 – The William McGarvey Beardless Iris Award

WNYIS – June 6 (tentative) – The Magdalen Award

Nominating Committee - Carolyn Schaffner proposed the following slate of Officers,

Kathryn Mohr – Regional Vice President (RVP)

Carolyn Schaffner – Assistant RVP

Vaughn Sayles – Treasurer

Secretary position to remain open.

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

2020 Region 2 Meeting – Kathryn Mohr announced a committee has been established to explore the possibility of electronic meetings in the future. Updates will be published in newsletter.

7. Other Business

Confirmation of AIS Region 2's compliance with IRS requirements was made to Jody Nolin.

Other Business – cont'd

Discussed with Jody various issues such as membership issues in other regions, the future of on-line JT and the status of the JT Handbook update.

8. Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned 11:35 am.



AIS Region 2 Membership Report

Submitted by Vaughn Sayles

As of February 1, 2020, in addition to four affiliate memberships (Capital Hudson Iris Society, Greater Rochester Iris Society, Ontario Iris Society and Western New York Iris Society) and four 4 organizational memberships (Brooklyn Botanical Garden, Cornell University Library, Jardin Botanique de Montreal Bibliotheque and the Sayville Garden Club), there are 96 members of the American Iris Society who reside in Region 2.

Please welcome Lori Galletti, N Baldwin, NY, who has joined with Marcia Galetti in a three year dual membership.

Join the American Iris Society



Annual Single: \$30 US / Dual: \$35 US
Triennial Single: \$70 US / Dual: \$85 US
(Includes a quarterly bulletin)

A one-year electronic membership, or e-membership, is also available for \$15 US.

Annual Youth Rates (under age 19): \$8 US without a Bulletin
\$12 US with a Bulletin

[Click here](#) to go to the American Iris Society website and a list of additional membership types.

Treasurer's Report

Region 2 of the American Iris Society
December 31, 2019

Submitted by Vaughn Sayles, Treasurer

Balances	1/1/2019	12/31/2019
Checking Account	\$3,399.63	\$3,064.50
Savings Account	\$3,623.03	\$3,624.82
Certificate of Deposit	\$3,603.76	\$3,612.80
Total Assets	\$10,626.42	\$10,302.12

Revenue received 2019

Affiliate Contributions	received	\$480.00
CHIS	\$200.00	
GRIS	\$150.00	
ONIS	\$50.00	
WNYIS	\$80.00	
Total	\$480.00	
Interest Income		\$10.83
Savings Account	\$1.79	
Certificate of Deposit	\$9.04	
Total	\$10.83	

Other Revenue **\$232.17**

Silent Auction	\$220.00
Amazon Smile	\$12.17
Total	\$232.17

Total Revenue received 2019 **\$723.00**

Expenses (2019)	Budgeted 10/20/2018	Expended 12/31/2019	Balance 12/31/2019
Archives	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Awards	\$200.00	\$190.50	\$9.50
Judges Training	\$25.00	\$14.60	\$10.40
Membership	\$10.00	\$0.00	\$10.00
Newsletter (2 issues)	\$150.00	\$14.05	\$135.95
RVP (miscellaneous)	\$10.00	\$0.00	\$10.00
Treasurer	\$10.00	\$5.30	\$4.70
Secretary	\$10.00	\$0.00	\$10.00
Creative Money	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Youth Membership	\$50.00	\$0.00	\$50.00
Fall Meeting	\$1,000.00	\$654.50	\$345.50
Website	\$175.00	\$168.35	\$6.65
Miscellaneous	\$50.00	\$0.00	\$50.00
Totals	\$1,690.00	\$1,047.30	\$642.70

**REGION 2 OF THE AMERICAN IRIS SOCIETY
COMPARISON OF 2019 AND 2020 BUDGETS**

Expenses	Budgeted 2019	Budgeted 2020	Budget Changes
Archives	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Awards	\$200.00	\$200.00	\$0.00
Judges Training	\$25.00	\$25.00	\$0.00
Membership	\$10.00	\$10.00	\$0.00
Newsletter (2 issues)	\$150.00	\$150.00	\$0.00
RVP (miscellaneous)	\$10.00	\$10.00	\$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	\$50.00	\$50.00	\$0.00
Fall Meeting	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00	\$0.00
Website	\$175.00	\$200.00	\$25.00
Miscellaneous	\$50.00	\$50.00	\$0.00
Totals	\$1,690.00	\$1,715.00	\$25.00



An Introduction to Videoconferencing

Disclaimer: Region 2 AIS does not endorse any particular videoconference platform.

“The Times They Are a-Changin’.” (Bob Dylan, from his 1964 album of the same name)

To make the AIS Region 2 Annual meeting more inclusive of its membership, the Board of Directors (BoD) is exploring several options for a new annual meeting model. One option is videoconferencing. The Board of Directors of American Iris Society (AIS) has been successfully using a videoconferencing platform called Zoom. Our BoD decided to give it a try. Many of the Board were nervous as they tried this new service for the first time however after a couple of test-runs they are happy to report it is simple and easy to use.

What is videoconferencing?

Videoconferencing is a technology that allows people in different locations to have a face-to-face online meeting. Laptops, tablets, and mobile devices with webcams can be used. Participants also can use a phone to join with audio only. It can be used for meetings, training sessions, or as a classroom.

Some benefits

The biggest benefit to using this platform is participation. Every member in the region can attend, and from the comfort of their own home! Documents can be displayed on everyone's screen. Videos can be played, and slide programs presented which means this can be used for Judges' Training...you will no longer have to travel to get those classroom hours.

How does it work?

When a meeting is set up, an e-mail with the *Zoom* meeting invitation is generated. Here is an example of the invitation:

Region 2 is inviting you to a scheduled *Zoom* meeting.
Topic: Region 2 BOD meeting
Time: Nov 1, 2019 02:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)
Everyone is invited
To Join *Zoom* Meeting online
<https://zoom.us/j/4358570936>
Meeting ID: 828 241 437 Password: 756037
With cell phone, One tap mobile
+16465588656, 828241437# US (New York)
Dial by your location
+1 646 558 8656 US (New York)
Find your local number: <https://zoom.us/u/aECvDRtXz>

How to join a meeting by computer

Select and copy the Meeting ID and password so you can paste them in, if needed.

Click on the link about 5-10 minutes before the scheduled time, and you should be directed to the meeting. If it's your first-time using *Zoom*, you will have to grant permission to download their software. *Zoom* is a reputable company so the software is safe to use, and it will cost you nothing to join.

Select the link, download the *Zoom* software. If the prompt asks for meeting number and password, paste them in.

If you receive a message that you are waiting for the host to start this meeting it means that the host has not started the meeting. Wait for a "Join the meeting" prompt.

After joining the meeting, immediately select the "mute" icon to prevent background noise from being transmitted.

Select the "video" icon to start transmitting your video.

How to join a meeting by phone

Dial an in-country number. If you dial a toll number, **your carrier long distance rates will apply**. You can find the dial-in number on your meeting invitation, or view a full list of international dial-in numbers at <https://zoom.us/zoomconference>.

You will be prompted to enter the meeting ID, which is the nine (9), ten (10), or eleven (11) digit ID provided to you by the host, followed by the # symbol.

If the meeting has not already started and the "join before host" icon is not enabled, you will be prompted to enter the host key to start the meeting. If you are a participant, just enter the # symbol to wait.

You will be prompted to enter your unique participant ID. This only applies if you have joined on the computer or mobile device or are a panelist in a webinar. Enter the # symbol to skip.

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: My computer doesn't have a webcam. Can I still attend the meeting online?

Yes, instead of video your name will be displayed in a box on the meeting screen. You will be able to see and hear all participants. All the other features will be available; you will have full participation capabilities.

Q: I don't have an internet connection. Can I attend the meeting?

Yes, you can call in from a mobile or landline. You can hear the meeting and speak as needed. Please mute your phone unless you want to speak.

Q: I clicked the video link, but it didn't work.

Your computer may have a security setting that prevents remote access to your computer's camera. This must be changed in your "Settings."

Q: This seems so complicated! Can I practice before I try it?

Yes, here is a link to *Zoom* tutorials

<https://support.zoom.us/hc/en-us/articles/206618765-Zoom-Video-Tutorials>

Or you can attend a live webinar: webinars@zoom.us

The *Zoom* website FAQ also has troubleshooting features.

Q: Will *Zoom* work internationally?

Yes, You can start or join a meeting from any international location using PC, Mac, & Linux, Android & iOS, H.323/SIP devices or telephone dial-in.

If you have any questions please contact one of the Board members listed on page 2 of this newsletter.



AIS Region 2 On-Line

Do you ever go to the AIS Region 2 website?

Did you know that each affiliate has its own webpage where upcoming events are listed?

Did you know that you can also find past editions of each affiliate's newsletter?

Take a look! Bookmark a page! You'll be glad that you did!

AIS Region 2 website: <http://aisregion2.org>

Capital-Hudson Iris Society (CHIS)

https://www.aisregion2.org/region2_007.htm

Ontario Iris Society (ONIS)

https://www.aisregion2.org/region2_009.htm

Greater Rochester Iris Society (GRIS)

https://www.aisregion2.org/region2_008.htm

Western New York Iris Society (WNYIS)

https://www.aisregion2.org/region2_011.htm

Greater Rochester Iris Society (GRIS) is on FACEBOOK

Ontario Iris Society (ONIS) is on FACEBOOK

You can also find the American Iris Society On-line:

American Iris Society Website: <http://irises.org>

AIS Iris Encyclopedia <http://wiki.irises.org>

World of Irises: Blog of the American Iris Society <https://theamericanirissociety.blogspot.com/>

The American Iris Society is also on FACEBOOK and TWITTER

From the Editor's Desk



Twenty-twenty is a year to celebrate.
How will you celebrate?

This is the year that the American Iris Society (AIS) celebrates its 100th anniversary. It all started at the New York Botanical Garden on January 29, 1920. One hundred years later we are going back to where it all began to celebrate this auspicious occasion. The reasons for our gathering has not changed much in 100 years; a group of like minded people gathering to share stories and to learn from each other's experiences with growing irises. The AIS is promising an eventful six day convention from May 18 to May 23. Read more of the details on page 14.

Closer to home, one of the Region 2 affiliates is celebrating an anniversary of its own. Western New York Iris Society is celebrating sixty years of iris

fellowship. You can read about what they have planned for the year ahead in this edition. In fact, when was the last time you joined fellow iris lovers at your local affiliate? Annually each one puts together a calendar of events for everyone's enjoyment. You can read what our four affiliates have planned for 2020 on pages 9 through 12.

We are also celebrating a change to the format of our Annual Meetings. In 2020, Region 2 is looking at video conferencing as a way to hold our meetings. We all lead busy lives and sometimes it is easier to sit in front of a computer, or pick up a cell phone, than it is to find a weekend where we can gather together. As much as I curse technology at times, this is a wonderful tool. If it can bring more of us together for meetings then I am all for it! I hope those of you who have never attended a Region 2 meeting will join us in 2020.

So, get out and celebrate irises in 2020. Take pictures, record your stories and perhaps share them with this editor. I am sure that other iris lovers in Region 2 will be interested.

Until next time....Kate (just1moreiris@gmail.com)

Pictured above: 'Centennial Celebration' (Diana Ford, 2020) – winning bearded iris in the Centennial Seedling Competition at the 2019 American Iris Society National Convention, as voted by convention attendees.