

# Region 2 of the American Iris Society

## NEWSLETTER

AUTUMN 2021



*'Autumn Explosion' (R. Tasco, 2013)  
Wister Medal 2019*

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# 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**

Neil Houghton – images@irises.org

#### **Secretary**

Kate Brewitt – just1moreiris@gmail.com

#### **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 – Position Open**

#### **Awards & Exhibitions**

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

#### **Judges' Training**

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

#### **Membership**

Vaughn Sayles (see Treasurer)

#### **Newsletter Editor & Webmaster**

Kate Brewitt (see Secretary)

#### **Technology Consultant**

Neil Houghton (see Vice President)

#### **Youth Committee - Position Open**

### 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@me.com  
Rochester, NY 14621  
(585) 266-0302

#### **Ontario Iris Society (ONIS)**

Terry Laurin – tlaurin@rogers.com

#### **Western New York Iris Society (WNYIS)**

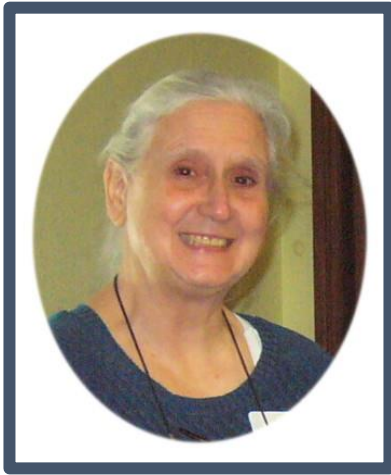
Marilee Farry – farmare@aol.com  
Cheektowaga, NY 14227-3140  
(716) 668-1789



*'Caesar's Brother' (F. Morgan Cleveland, 1932)*

# RVP Message

## Greetings, Iris Lovers



This is my last message as your Region 2 RVP. The last three years have been such a positive experience for me! The local Affiliates have many talented members. Region 2 has prospered because of their efforts. Thank you all.

As I write this there is a return of uncertainty due to the pandemic. Eagerly anticipated fall meetings may have to be held online.

There have been many positive iris experiences in the region this summer:

WNYIS continues to build membership through hard work and innovation. Bravo!

ONIS and GRIS held non-AIS sanctioned virtual iris shows this year. Kate Brewitt led the ONIS effort, with Terry Laurin serving as judge. Neil Houghton chaired the GRIS event, ably assisted by Cara Hutchings, Wendy Roller and judges Vaughn Sayles, Terry Laurin and Kate Brewitt. Cara mentioned she is very grateful for the assistance with the show schedule she received from Kate Brewitt.

Youth members Cora, Evelyn and Aubrey Roller had several winning entries in the GRIS show, continuing the Roller legacy of gardening excellence.

I was delighted to participate in two “face-to-face” iris activities this summer. GRIS celebrated iris season with a picnic at Neil Houghton’s beautiful garden. The event featured delicious food, a raffle of many iris plants and, best of all, a chance to talk with GRIS members. CHIS held their sale at a local nursery. Sales were very good. The highlight, though, was talking with other iris enthusiasts.

Iris bloom season was lovely this year. Flower colors were especially vibrant. Unfortunately, the downside of the abundant rainfall was widespread rot in the garden.

Please support the next RVP by volunteering to serve at the regional level.

***Kathryn Mohr***, President and AIS Region 2 RVP



*Two of Kathryn’s ‘Holiday in Mexico x bee’ seedlings, BX HIM 1 and 2*



# Nominating Committee Report

*by Neil Houghton, Assistant RVP and Committee Chair*

The Nominating Committee will be submitting the following nominations to the AIS Region 2 Board of Directors for their approval at their Board meeting on October 5, 2021, at 7:30 pm. All officers must be elected annually to serve no more than three consecutive years except for the Treasurer and Secretary.

Regional Vice President (RVP) – Neil Houghton (GRIS)

Assistant Regional Vice President (Assistant RVP) – Cara Hutchings (GRIS)

Secretary – Kate Brewitt (ONIS)

Treasurer – Annette Kuhn (WNYIS)

Once approved, voting will take place during the AIS Region 2 Annual General Meeting on Saturday October 16, 2021.

Nominations for any office may be made from the floor at the General Meeting, but nominees must be present and must agree to serve.

If there are nominations from the floor voting will then be done by roll call.



## Upcoming Zoom Meetings

AIS Region 2 has scheduled regular zoom meetings on the **first Tuesday of every month** for the remainder of the year. Meeting content varies. At some the Board and Committee chairs discuss Region 2 business; others are more social where we share garden

experiences and activities. Everyone will receive notification of the meeting via email. Join us! It couldn't be easier to login so you can listen, watch, and perhaps share your stories.

**Start time is 7:30 PM Eastern Time (US & Cda)**

September 7 – Brief Board Meeting with time for socializing afterwards.

October 5, 2021 – Annual AIS Region 2 Board Meeting

Everyone is invited! Agenda will be sent with zoom invitation.

October 16, 2021 – Annual AIS Region General Meeting – Details/agenda on the next page.

November 2, 2021 – Topic TBD

December 7, 2021 – Topic TBD

# AIS Region 2 Annual General Meeting

Saturday, October 16, 2021, at 10:30 AM (ET)

This year's Annual General Meeting will be held via zoom again! So, grab your favourite mid-morning beverage and join us from the comfort of your own home! Mark your calendars!

During the meeting our Treasurer will give his annual report and present the budget for the coming year. Committee Chairs will also give their annual reports and members will vote on the nominations for the Board of Directors.

At twelve noon, after a break, Cathy Egerer, past president of the Historic Iris Preservation Society (HIPS) will be giving a presentation entitled, "Historic Irises: A Journey Through Time". The presentation traces the development of bearded irises from species to moderns. Cathy has given numerous talks on historic irises. Her presentations are always informative as well as entertaining.

## General Meeting Agenda

Call to Order and welcome – Kathryn Mohr. RVP

Roll Call - Kate Brewitt, Secretary

Additions or corrections to the minutes of the October 24, 2020, AIS Region 2 General Meeting

Treasurer's Report

Committee Reports

Archives - Dorothy Stiefel

Awards & Exhibitions – Marilee Farry

Bylaws Committee - Cara Hutchings

Judges Training – Wendy Roller

Membership – Vaughn Sayles

Newsletter Editor – Kate Brewitt

Technology Consultant – Neil Houghton

Youth Committee - Position open

Webmaster - Kate Brewitt

Unfinished Business

New Business

1) Budget for 2022

2) Show Dates and Awards

3) Vote on officers

Adjourn

## Annual Meeting cont'd

If you would like a copy of the minutes from last year's annual meeting, you will find them on the AIS Region 2 website, [www.aisregion2.org](http://www.aisregion2.org), under Upcoming Meetings, or via this direct link: ['Upcoming Region 2 Gatherings'](#). You can also email our secretary, Kate, at [just1moreiris@gmail.com](mailto:just1moreiris@gmail.com), and she will be happy to forward you a copy before October 16.

# Treasurer's Report

## Region 2 of the American Iris Society

*Submitted by Vaughn Sayles, Treasurer*

As of August 1, 2021, Region 2 of the American Iris Society currently has \$9,875.96 in its bank accounts. The balances are:

Checking account - \$2,621.21

Savings account – \$3,627.66

Certificate of deposit - \$3,627.09.

Since January 1, 2021, we have received \$64.87 in revenue: interest – \$7.18, anonymous donation - \$50.00, Amazon Smile – \$7.69 and expended \$164.50: Judges Training mailings - \$14.60, Zoom Meeting annual renewal - \$149.90.

# Membership Report

## Region 2 of the American Iris Society

*Submitted by Vaughn Sayles, Membership Chair*

As of July 31, 2021, 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 organizational memberships (Brooklyn Botanical Garden, Cornell University Library, Jardin Botanique de Montreal Bibliotheque, and the Royal Botanical Garden) there are 95 members of the American Iris Society who reside in Region 2.

The following individuals have joined since March 1, 2021. We would like to welcome:

Leslie Esposito (Seafood, NY), Joseph Lauher (South Setauket, NY), Benjamin Morris (Otego, NY), Angelica Torres (Centereach, NY), Linda Zeito (Ithaca, NY)

### **Do you know when your AIS membership expires?**

Go to [www.aislookup.org](http://www.aislookup.org) to find out your expiry date. If your membership is expiring, you can go to [www.irises.org](http://www.irises.org) and renew on-line with PayPal. It is that easy to keep your AIS membership current.

# Call for Videographers and Starring Players

*by Neil Houghton, AIS Region 2 Asst RVP*

It would be great for Region 2 to be represented in the Video Interview Program!

All you need is a camera or smartphone capable of recording videos, plus a desire to help create a video archive of hybridizers and leaders of the AIS. You will be given tips on how to conduct an interview, suggestions for questions to ask, the audio equipment necessary plus whatever support you need to accomplish this task.

Most of us have great video capability in our smartphones (iPhone or Android) or digital cameras. However, the audio could always use some help, so we will loan you a set of wireless microphones. These can be used with most models of video equipment. Let us know what you have, and we will send you what you need.

The first thing you will need is a subject for the interview. A local hybridizer would be great. How about a leader who can share some history or a gardener who will talk about tips for a successful iris garden, especially in our climate?

You may have seen this project shared in the Spring 2021 edition of the AIS bulletin, "Irises", and/or in June 22nd's AIS News and Notes e-newsletter. I am spearheading this project and would love to have Region 2 represented. Please contact me at [images@irises.org](mailto:images@irises.org) or text or call (585) 301-8256 to share ideas and volunteer.



## In Search of...

### Harry Hite MDB Introductions

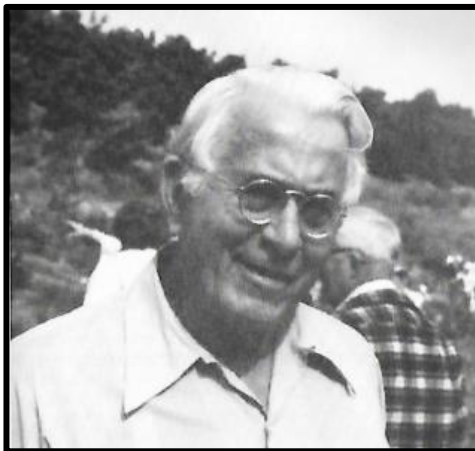


Harry Hite of Goshen, Indiana was a major contributor to the MDB class with 39 introductions. In a 2016/17 survey of the MDB class only 5 of his introductions were found in private/public gardens.

Given the rarity of Hite's irises Charlie Carver, AIS National Collections Chair, is trying to identify which of his varieties are still grown in gardens today. The goal is to develop a preservation plan to maintain a supply of those available. That said, Charlie is hoping members of Region 2 will provide him with an inventory of any Harry Hite MDB varieties they may grow in their gardens. You can email your list to Charlie at, [leftthandhorticulture@gmail.com](mailto:leftthandhorticulture@gmail.com).

Another project that Charlie is working on is the assembly of a collection of all classes of irises hybridized by Tony and Dorothy Willott. These are being planted in a display garden in Cleveland, Ohio. If you grow any of their irises, Charlie would also like to have a list of those that you have.

### William McGarvey Introductions



The following email from Carol Dean was received in June. Carol is the great-niece of William McGarvey, iris hybridizer and winner of the AIS Hybridizer Award in 1976. He is also the man after whom the AIS Region 2 William McGarvey Beardless Iris Award is named. If there are any Region 2 members who can help Carol with her quest, I am sure she would appreciate hearing from you. You can email her at [mothnflame@hotmail.com](mailto:mothnflame@hotmail.com).

*"William McGarvey was my great uncle, from my father's side. I am starting to collect as many of his irises as I can find. As I live in Washington state, I paid a lovely visit to 'Cascadia Iris*

*Gardens' near Seattle, and Patrick (Spence) gifted me a cutting of 'Foretell' and 'Gull Wings'.*

*I wonder if you have members who would have other varieties of his or know more about him. I did not realize that there was an iris award named after him.*

*I appreciate any thoughts you might have on my uncle or his flowers,*

*Thanks, Carol Dean"*



# Capital-Hudson Iris Society (CHIS)

*Taken from the July/August 2021 CHIS Newsletter with input from Kathryn Mohr*

Cap-Hudson iris lovers met on August 4<sup>th</sup> for a 'Iris Digging Party' held at Euthemia's. Eight to ten members trimmed and tagged irises for their sale at Faddegon's Nursery in Latham on August 7<sup>th</sup>. This was the first sale since August 2019. The tall bearded irises sold out while sales on median irises were brisk. A box of Siberians, donated by Bob Keup in Maine, was delayed by the postal service, and did not arrive until two days after the sale. Willing CHIS members were given some of these plants to "babysit" until next year's sale. Thanks to those who came out to help.

## **CHIS Officers:**

**Chair:** Linda Knipper - linda.montanaro@gmail.com

**Vice Chairs:** Dan and Joanne Maier - danjomaier@gmail.com

**Secretary:** Virginia Dorwaldt - vmdorwaldt@gmail.com

**Treasurer:** Don Salhoff - driris2000@hotmail.com

**Newsletter editor:** Euthemia Matsoukas - EuthemiaMatsoukas@gmail.com

**Iris Show Chair:** Kathryn Mohr - kemohrke@aol.com

# Greater Rochester Iris Society (GRIS)

*Submitted by Cara Hutchings, Affiliate Chair*

We have had a busy summer, not so much with GRIS activities but with keeping our gardens weed-free. They love the rain, and our region had a lot.

Our April meeting was a Zoom meeting this year, with Maureen Dunphy, one of our newest members, giving a great talk about gypsy moths.

We had a virtual iris show this year. Pictures of the winning entries start on page 11, following this report.

In June, we had a garden celebration at Neil Houghton's house, with a wonderful turnout of friends and family. Kathryn Mohr, our RVP, even made it! Some great prizes were won, and great food was on the table.

Also in June, some of us took a trip to Iris Country Gardens in Geneva, NY. This is the former Borglum's Iris Gardens. The new owners have maintained the essence of the Borglum's garden and continue to display a large number of Dana's introductions. Pictures from this wonderful trip are provided on the next page.



*View Overlooking Iris Country Gardens*



*Reba Martin (left) and Sara Martin (right), co-owner of Iris Country Gardens*



*Front row (left to right): Cara Hutchings, Laurel Swan, Maureen Dunphy  
Back row (left to right): Nate Hutchings, Neil Houghton*



*Siberian 'Seneca Colorplay'*  
(Borglum, 2003)

In August, we held our annual sale at Bristol's Garden Center in Victor, NY. Irises were brought in from Stout Gardens at Dancingtree with many hybridized by Hugh Stout. The sale was very successful, and we discovered that we had made a few new iris friends at last year's sale as quite a few people returned to show us pictures of irises they had bought.

In September we are planning on having an in-person meeting at our usual location, St. John's Episcopal Church Hall in Honeoye Falls. The topic is still being worked on, as the meeting is planned for September 12<sup>th</sup>.

Our last meeting of the year, on October 10<sup>th</sup>, will also be in-person at the same location. Diane Henderson, who gave such a great talk on Woodpeckers last year, will be speaking on hummingbirds. I for one am looking forward to it!

#### **GRIS Officers:**

**President:** Cara Hutchings - thehutchings@me.com

**Vice President:** Neil Houghton - images@irises.org

**Secretary/Treasurer:** Nate Hutchings - thehutchings@e.com

## GRIS Virtual Iris Show Winners

Congratulations to those who submitted the winning entries in GRIS' first virtual iris show. There was a tremendous response with over 140 entries. Thanks to all who entered. Thanks too to Vaughn Sayles, Terry Laurin and Kate Brewitt who judged the show.



Division I, Section A: TB 'Whisper in The Wind' entered by Evelyn Roller





Division I, Section B: MDB “Snowy River” entered by Michael Roller



Division I, Section C: SDB ‘Irish Moss’ entered by Cora Roller



Division I, Section D: IB ‘Rimaround’ entered by Evelyn Roller





Division I, Section E: BB 'Brown Lasso' entered by Michael Roller



Division I, Section F: MTB 'Consummation' entered by Wendy Roller



Division I, Section H: SIB 'Rikugi Sakura' entered by Cora Roller

Division I, Section G – Aril/Arilbred – one entry - no winner declared

Division I, Section I: Spuria – no entries

Division I, Section J: Louisiana – one entry – no winner declared

Division I, Section K: Japanese – no entries



Division I, Section L: SPEC I. graminea #1 entered by Cora Roller



Division I, Section M: SPECX 'Paltec' entered by Michael Roller





Division I, Section N: BULBOUS - *I. hollandica* entered by Aubrey Roller



Division II – Seedling – Borglum PG-13 entered by Michael Roller

## Behind Every Picture is a Story

Michael Roller, who entered the set of pictures of Borglum PG-13, received this Siberian seedling from Dana Borglum, well known AIS hybridizer. While strolling Borglum's Iris Garden in 2013 Michael admired the seedling which was growing in the 'no dig' area of the garden. When he asked Dana if it was possible to get a piece, Dana dug the entire clump out of the ground and said something to the effect of, 'if you really think it is that nice, feel free to try and introduce it yourself. I don't do that anymore.' This is a good example of Dana's generosity, and his kindness towards fellow irisarians



# Ontario Iris Society (ONIS)

*Submitted by Kate Brewitt, Affiliate Secretary*

Fortunately the work that the ONIS Board did in 2020 to reinvent the club for a 'self-isolating' culture was put to good use in 2021. Our usual events continued to be cancelled due to the temporary closure of the Toronto Botanical Garden.

ONIS held its second virtual iris show, and it was just as successful as last year. Participants submitted over 50 entries for judging by Terry Laurin. Again, everybody who entered received a \$10 Tim Hortons gift card as a thank you for their efforts. One participant very generously donated the value of her gift card back to the club. Below are just some of the entries received.



'Pearly Whites' submitted by Barbara Jean Jackson in the Miniature Dwarf Bearded Section



'Endless Moments' submitted by David Retallick in the Intermediate Bearded Section





'Belle Filles' submitted by Andrea Karpinsky in the Tall Bearded Section



'Calico Lace' submitted by Kate Brewitt in the Standard Dwarf Bearded Section

In July we held another on-line rhizome sale. All classes of bearded irises were offered, supplied by our members. Iris lovers from British Columbia to New Brunswick took advantage of this offer. All proceeds go towards future ONIS events.

Our FACEBOOK page continues to be highly active with our number of friends doubling since the end of last year. There were lots of posts with lots of shared experiences and pictures. Join us. We would love to hear from you!

#### **ONIS Officers:**

**President:** Terrance Laurin – [tlaurin@rogers.com](mailto:tlaurin@rogers.com)

**Vice President:** Jinny Missons - [jojimissons@sympatico.com](mailto:jojimissons@sympatico.com)

**Secretary:** Kate Brewitt – [kbrewitt@rogers.com](mailto:kbrewitt@rogers.com)

**Treasurer:** Lyn Hickey – [lhickey94@hotmail.com](mailto:lhickey94@hotmail.com)

# Arbour Gardens

*By Kate Brewitt, Ontario Iris Society*

When an opportunity arose to go on a road trip, I was ecstatic. It had been 20 months since Terry and I had last been 'on the road'. It was time for a change of scenery. One of our fellow Region 2 AIS members was having an Open Garden. It seemed like a good opportunity to meet a new member and check out some irises...ours had finished early so I was in withdrawal.

Despite the rain we headed out to Arbour Gardens, east of Newcastle, ON, on a Monday, day three of a three-day open garden. Apparently, we picked the 'best day' to visit as people had lined up to get in the previous two days. Today, we had the place to ourselves!



*Irises in Bloom*



*Dry Riverbed lined with Siberians*

We were greeted by Kevin Arbour, who tends the one-acre property with his wife Karen. Even though they were busy in the garden Kevin took the time to walk with us and chat about borers, blooms, and iris maintenance. The care that goes into these gardens is quite evident. The irises are organized in rows with walking paths of wood chips in between. The iris clumps are large with healthy foliage and lots of blooms. Each one is labeled with a sign that indicates name, classification, height, and bloom season. Kevin is clearly an iris aficionado.

Arbour Gardens is named in honour of Kevin's father, who introduced him to irises many years ago. Even though he says the garden is a work in progress it is clear he has put a lot of thought into its design. When he realized the dwarf and median irises could not be enjoyed by passersby in the spring when his garden is closed, he moved them to the front of the property, facing the main road. He has also taken advantage of a drainage ditch that runs through the property by turning it into a dry riverbed and lining it with moisture-tolerant Siberians. It is an extremely attractive feature. There are shade gardens which feature hostas and other shade-loving plants while sun-loving peonies, lupins and daylilies are interspersed amongst the irises.

Kevin holds an annual open garden the second weekend in June. Bearded and beardless irises are sold; as well as perennials, vegetables, and herbs, all at very reasonable prices. The garden is lovely and well worth a visit. Kevin will make you feel more than welcome.

# Western New York Iris Society (WNYIS)

*Submitted by Marilee Farry, Affiliate Chair*

WNYIS was very busy this past season. We held two iris garden visitations/open houses. The sun was shining for the first weekend, and we had over seventy-five visitors, who enjoyed David Baehre's beautiful gardens with tall bearded iris, Siberians, and even some late medians. We advertised and gave out scores of literature on irises and their care.

Unfortunately, our second garden tour was rainy with cooler temperatures. This affected the number of visitors, and the Japanese and Louisiana bloom. Despite the rain, Joanne Bassett was busy giving tours to about twenty people. Most of our members participated and we all felt that we connected positively with people who were interested in irises.

Our rhizome sale was August 28<sup>th</sup>. There were irises for auction, irises for sale, no-name irises for \$2, and potted irises (thanks to Joanne). Free irises were given to anyone who signed up to attend our October meeting.

During our September 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting we will plan the 2021-2022 year.

At our October meeting we will show two videos on iris gardening and provide instruction on iris planting and care.

## **WNYIS Officers:**

**President:** Marilee Farry – farmare@aol.com

**Vice President:** Betty Schnellinger – bettyschnell@icloud.com

**Secretary:** David Baehre – dwbfarm@gmail.com

**Treasurer:** Annette Kuhn – akuhn@rich.com



*Siberian 'Foretell' (McGarvey, 1970)  
Honorable Mention 1971*



# Judges' Training Session at Joanne's Garden

by Wendy Roller, AIS Region 2 Judges' Training Chair



LA 'Friend's Song' (Haymon, 2004)

The Western New York Iris Society sponsored a wonderful two-hour in-garden judges' training session on June 26, 2021. The course was led by Master Judge Joanne Bassett in her extensive country garden in Marilla, New York. The topic was "Evaluating Irises – Before, Now and After Bloom." Irises were evaluated for a variety of characteristics including vigor, state of foliage, increases, bud count, and the garden worth of an individual cultivar. The course was attended by three American Iris Society Master Judges and one newly declared Candidate for Judgeship.

Although Joanne grows many varieties of bearded and Siberian irises, I believe she currently grows the largest number of Species-X, Louisiana and Japanese irises to be seen vigorously growing and blooming in the western part of New York State. When I asked her how many varieties of beardless irises she grows, her response was that she only keeps track of the names of the varieties that bloom each year. Joanne follows a strict schedule when dividing her beardless irises, rotates the planting sites, replaces the soil, and then further enriches the soil nutrient requirements of the various species of irises.

The Bassett property is sloped, with the house placed in the middle part of the land. An extensive drainage system diverts any runoff water away from the house and into a lower area of the property near the road (where clumps of *I. pseudacorus* had bloomed earlier in the season and a huge unidentified clump of Japanese iris was currently in full bloom). We evaluated large clumps of named beardless iris cultivars that were growing in three different areas of the yard: behind the house in full sun near a small pond and patio area; along the side of the house underneath a large tree with low over-hanging branches; and in beds in front of a grouping of mature ornamental trees in the front yard.



SPX 'Shiryukyo' (Shimizu, 2008)

The bloom season was about a week behind schedule due to a ten-day spell of cold weather earlier in the month. Even though a light rain had fallen in the early morning hours, the approximately 20-25 varieties of irises we observed in bloom that day were



putting on a beautiful show. We also were able to study about 25 more beardless iris varieties that were in various stages of stalk and bud development. If I lived closer to Joanne's house, I would certainly visit her beardless iris gardens often during their season of bloom. Joanne's collection of late blooming irises is truly remarkable!



*Jl 'Variation In Pink' (McEwen, 1996)*

## Judges Training Report

*Submitted by Wendy Roller, AIS Region 2 Judges' Training Chair*

### REGION 2 OF THE AMERICAN IRIS SOCIETY – JUDGES and STUDENT JUDGES Status Roster – as of July 31, 2021

<u>Active Master</u>	<u>Garden / Exhibition</u>	<u>Apprentice Judge</u>	<u>Retired Master</u>	
David Baehre	Kate Brewitt	Suzanne Perry	John Colley	Maria Gerbracht
Joanne Bassett	Marilee Farry		Donna James	Maureen Mark
Chuck Chapman	Terrance Laurin		Daniel P. McMillen	Gloria McMillen
Donna J. Lowry	Jinny Missons	<u>Candidate for Judgeship</u>	James McMillen	Vaughn Sayles
Wendy K. Roller		Annette Kuhn	Helen B. Schuler	Kathleen Shadrack
Janette Smith				
Dorothy Stiefel				

### THE YEAR IN REVIEW

During the period August 1, 2020 – July 31, 2021, Region 2 accredited judges and student judges collectively earned 20 hours of credit for attending and/or presenting classroom and in-garden training/tutoring sessions held within the region. They also collectively earned 32 hours of credit for attending the one-hour AIS ZOOM Meeting classroom course sessions which aired from the states of California, Michigan, New York, Ohio, Texas, and Washington.

*(Due to the on-going COVID-19 pandemic, The American Iris Society made the decision to extend eligibility of all Student, Apprentice, Garden and Master judges who lack judges training hours for an additional year.)*

A summary of the judges training sessions offered within Region 2 during the last year is as follows:

- During the Region 2 Annual Fall ZOOM Meeting event held on-line on October 24, 2020, AIS Emeritus Judge Bob Hollingworth presented a one-hour course on “Siberian Irises”.
- On June 8, 2021, AIS Master Judge Dorothy Stiefel led a two-hour (one-on-one) in-garden apprentice judge tutoring session on tall bearded irises in her garden in Spencer, NY.
- On June 26, 2021, AIS Master Judge Joanne Bassett, presented a two-hour in-garden course on “Evaluating Irises – Before, Now and After Bloom” in her garden in Marilla, NY.

**The 8<sup>th</sup> Edition of the Handbook for Judges and Show Officials is now available through the AIS Iris Encyclopedia (Wiki) at no charge. Paper copies of the handbook are at the printers and should be available by the end of September through the AIS Storefront. Once details are released, they will be posted in the ‘AIS News and Notes’ e-newsletter as well as on the AIS website in the AIS Storefront.**



Enjoy the convenience of on-line shopping while supporting Region 2 at the same time. If you shop on Amazon, you can have 0.5% of eligible purchase prices donated to Region 2 of the American Iris Society.

Use this 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 eligible purchases will be donated to Region 2. There is no cost to Region 2 and there is no additional cost to you. It is a win-win situation if you shop this way.

If you already shop at Amazon, go one step further and shop at AmazonSmile! More details are available on the Amazon Smile website. Note, this offer is available to US residents only.

# Join the American Iris Society

The AIS has a new membership category. With a 'Full Membership', you will receive the benefits of both the 'Basic Membership' and the 'E-membership'.

Full Membership (Printed Bulletin + on-line access)

Annual: \$45 US – Single / \$50 US – Dual

Triennial: \$115 US – Single / \$130 US - Dual

Basic Membership (Printed Bulletin, no on-line access)

Annual: \$30 US – Single / \$35 US - Dual

Triennial: \$70 US – Single / \$85 US - Dual

E-Membership: One-year on-line access includes online version of the bulletin and online iris register database of registrations and introductions - \$15 US.

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

Go to the AIS website, [AIS Members – American Iris Society \(irises.org\)](https://irises.org) for a list of additional membership types. There is also a link that will allow you to pay for your membership through PayPal.



## 2022 AIS National Convention 'Iris Enchantment' Las Cruces, New Mexico April 11- 16, 2022

The 2021 National Convention in Las Cruces, New Mexico is rescheduled for April 2022. Registration opens some time in September 2021. The convention hotel, Hotel Encanto, is accepting reservations. Details can be found on the convention website, along with other up-to-date information, such as fees, gardens, and programs, [2022 National Convention – AISRegion 23](#).

Howie Dash and Scarlett Ayres put together a YouTube video that highlights the convention gardens that will be visited. Check it out!

[AIS Webinar #17 "Preview of the 2022 National Convention at Las Cruces, NM" by H. Dash & S. Ayres - YouTube](#)

# Editor's Message



September always makes me nostalgic. Even though it has been many years since I attended school, September always evokes memories of returning to school after the summer holidays, as well as feelings of anticipation about new classmates, new lessons learned and new homework assignments.

In this edition of the newsletter there is a set of homework assignments for all Region 2 members. They range from helping other iris lovers find irises for private and/or public collections to helping record 'iris history' for future generations. These "assignments" will not be graded, and participation is optional although, we hope you will give each one a consideration.

As lockdown restrictions eased in New York State, Ontario, and Quebec we were able to visit other peoples' gardens once again. Some of our members ventured forth, relishing in the ability to 'get out and about'. Three members very kindly shared pictures and/or stories of their garden visits. I hope you enjoy.

Plus, we've got pictures galore! The Greater Rochester Iris Society (GRIS) and the Ontario Iris Society (ONIS) each held very successful virtual iris shows. As one of the judges for the GRIS show I tell you, it was hard! The Region has several excellent photographers. Congratulations to everyone on a job well done!

Hard to believe it is time for our annual meeting. Region 2 continues to use a zoom format as it makes attending more convenient. In the newsletter you will find the meeting agenda as well as a summary of the presentation planned for after the meeting. We hope you will join us this year!

Until next time...*Kate*

*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). Views expressed in this newsletter are those of the authors and contributors, and do not necessarily represent those of the Editor, Region 2, its officers, and members of the American Iris Society. Members without email may receive a paper copy by mail upon request to the editor. It is the member's responsibility to advise of e-mail changes. 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.)

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