

Region 2 of the American Iris Society

NEWSLETTER

AUTUMN 2023

IN THIS EDITION



MTB 'Look Here' (Fisher, 2006)
© K. Brewitt

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Who We Are

Region 2 of the American Iris Society

Officers

Regional Vice President (RVP)

Cara Hutchings – rvp@aisregion2.org
Rochester NY 14621

Assistant RVP (Acting)

Kathryn Mohr – kemohrke@aol.com
Ballston Lake NY 12019-9748

Secretary

Benjamin Morris –
secretary@aisregion2.org
Otego, NY 13825

Treasurer

Annette Kuhn – akuhn43@yahoo.com

Affiliate Chairpersons

Capital-Hudson Iris Society (CHIS)

Kathryn Mohr (Acting) - kemohrke@aol.com
(See Assistant RVP)

Greater Rochester Iris Society (GRIS)

Cara Hutchings – thehutchings@mac.com
(See RVP)

Ontario Iris Society (ONIS)

Terrance Laurin – tlaurin@rogers.com
Aurora, ON L4G 2E8

Western New York Iris Society (WNYIS)

Marilee Farry – farmare@aol.com
Cheektowaga, NY 14227-3140

Committee Chairpersons

Archives

Dorothy Stiefel – irisacher@aol.com
Spencer NY 14883

Bylaws – Position Open

Awards & Exhibitions – Position Open

Judges Training

Wendy Roller – gwr67@frontier.com
Rochester NY 14616-4133

Membership

Cara Hutchings – see RVP

Newsletter Editor and Webmaster

Kate Brewitt – just1moreiris@gmail.com

Technology Consultant

Neil Houghton – neil.houghton@me.com or
nhoughtonirises@gmail.com

Youth Committee - Position Open



'Believe In Tomorrow' (Granatier, 2016)
© Ilona Shtepan

RVP Message

Cara Hutchings, AIS Region 2 RVP



As I started to write my first fall RVP message, I again turned to past editions of the Region 2 newsletter for inspiration. [These can be accessed from the newsletter section of our website (aisregion2.org) or use this direct link to the Ben R. Hager – Sidney P. DuBose Memorial Online Iris Library in the AIS Iris Encyclopedia (WIKI), [Region2Publications < Hist < Iris Wiki \(irises.org\)](http://Region2Publications%20History%20Iris%20Wiki%20(irises.org))]. While past spring messages were full of hope for the upcoming season, fall was a time for reflection – this is what happened in our gardens, and our organization, during the year – plus we have the fall meeting to look forward to!

So, continuing in that vein...

It was a very different summer! The weather was either very rainy or hot and dry, so the weeds took over my garden. Due to time constraints and a few trips I took this summer, some of the weeds were taller than I was when I finally got time in the garden. Fortunately, my garden is mature, so most plants could contend with the weeds, including most of my irises. I was able to dig up quite a few rhizomes for our annual sale, and because the extras I had potted from last year's sale had survived, there was a good selection available for members and visitors to buy.

The affiliates are starting to get out into the public eye again. The region had one flower show while every affiliate had its own in-person rhizome sale. Some of the affiliates in the region seem to be in a growing phase with changes in leadership and the addition of new local members that will hopefully turn into AIS members.

Our monthly regional zoom meetings continue; I find it much easier to talk to a computer screen showing faces of like-minded people than it is to send an email and hope to get a timely reply (Or in my case – at least within 24 hours).

And yes, the fall meeting! That was always a highlight of my fall calendar...and it still is. This year, it will again be via zoom. Please look for information about it in this newsletter. I know I'm looking forward to the meeting so I can see all my fellow irisarians friends again!

Cara Hutchings (rvp@aisregion2.org or thehutchings@mac.com)

Pictured above, SDB 'Cara' (Donald Spoon, 2011) © Kate Brewitt.

From the Editor's Desk



Our affiliates kept their members busy this past gardening season with flower shows, road trips, picnics, rhizome sales, and more. Looking at the smiles on the faces of the people in some of the pictures, I'd say they were enjoying themselves! These events would not happen without the members who generously volunteer their time to help with the organization. I hope you will all consider volunteering at one of the events put on by your local affiliate. To find an affiliate close to you, contact one of the affiliate chairs on the 'Who We Are' page.

This year's annual meeting is scheduled for October 28th. The format will be a bit different this year. There will be a zoom business meeting followed by a new AIS Webinar. Details are found on page 7. Bob Pries, AIS Iris Encyclopedia Manager, will give a

presentation on *The Iris Family, or Iridaceae*. There is more to this family than the bearded and beardless irises with which most of us are familiar. Join us to find out who the other family members are. You might be surprised!

The AIS 2023 membership drive continues until the end of the year. Remember if you are renewing your AIS membership, and you upgrade from a 'Basic' to a 'Full' membership, you will receive a voucher for a 1-year membership in an AIS Section. Details are on page 13.

Prior to the record-breaking temperatures of the last few days, the nighttime temperatures in my part of the region had already dipped into the single digits (degrees Celsius)...a sure sign autumn is on its way. Another sign is a bloom stalk on 'Precious Little Pink' (*pictured right*). Time to ready my camera by the door once again!

Until next time

Kate (just1moreiris@gmail.com)

THANK YOU to those who made contributions to this edition! It's impossible for me to get to every event so 'field reporters' are an extremely important part of this newsletter!



Above: Spuria 'Rain Music' (Niswonger, 2001) © K. Brewitt



AIS Region 2 Calendar

Six Months of Events At-A-Glance

A quick reference to upcoming AIS Region 2 events!

September

September 10 at 2:00 pm – GRIS Meeting and Presentation

Topic: Soil Preparation for Planting your Iris Rhizomes.

Contact: Cara Hutchings – thehutchings@mac.com

September 10 at 1:30 pm – WNYIS Meeting and Presentation

Topic: Spuria and Aril Iris, plus What To Do in Your Iris Garden in September by Marilee Farry.

Contact: Marilee Farry – farmare@aol.com

September 13 at 7:00 pm - Region 2 Board meeting

Contact Ben Morris (secretary@aisregion2.org) to pre-register.

September 16 at 10:00 am – CHIS Presentation

Topic: News from the Iris and Daylily National Conventions by Debi Chowdhury.

Contact: Kathryn Mohr – kemohrke@aol.com

October

October 8 at 2:00 pm – GRIS Meeting and Presentation

Topic: Winterizing Your Iris Garden.

Contact: Cara Hutchings – thehutchings@mac.com

October 11 at 7:00 pm - Region 2 Board meeting

Preparation for the General Meeting; 2023/2024 budget and nominations

Contact Ben Morris (secretary@aisregion2.org) to pre-register.

October 21 at 10:00 am – CHIS Presentation

Topic: For the Love of Hosta by Dave Jennings.

Contact: Kathryn Mohr – kemohrke@aol.com

October 22 at 11:00 am – ONIS Annual Meeting

A review of 2023 plus planning events for 2024.

Date is tentative. Contact: Terry Laurin – tlaurin@rogers.com

October 28 at 12:00 pm - Region 2 Annual Meeting via Zoom

Presentation: 'The Iris Family' presented by Bob Pries, AIS Iris Encyclopedia Manager

Contact Ben Morris (secretary@aisregion2.org) to pre-register.

November

November 8 at 7:00 pm - Region 2 Board Meeting via Zoom

Contact Ben Morris (secretary@aisregion2.org) to pre-register.

November 18 at 10:00 am – CHIS Presentation

Topic: Cornell Cooperative Extension: Invasive Species Management
by Addison Kubik. Contact: Kathryn Mohr – kemohrke@aol.com



December

December 16 – Holiday Party

CHIS, HADS, and UNYHS celebrate the holiday season.
Details to be announced closer to the date.

January

January 10 at 7:00 pm - Region 2 Board Meeting via Zoom

Contact Ben Morris (secretary@aisregion2.org) to pre-register.

February

February 14 at 7:00 pm - Region 2 Board Meeting via Zoom

Contact Ben Morris (secretary@aisregion2.org) to pre-register.



‘New Horizons’ 2024 AIS/Japanese National Iris Convention Portland, OR June 26 – 29, 2024

Join the [Greater Portland Iris Society](#) for a combined AIS National and Japanese Society Convention. During this four-day event attendees will visit five host gardens. In-garden training sessions as well as classroom training will be available to AIS Judges. There will be AIS section programs, a Geek dinner and the ever-popular silent auction and boutique.

2024 Convention Co-Chair: Chad Harris
PO Box 346, Washougal, WA 98671-0346
e-mail: chadharris@prodigy.net

2024 Convention Co-Chair: John Ludi
PO Box 956, Sandy, OR 97055-0956
e-mail: kludi@juno.com

Convention Hotel: The Holiday Inn Portland-Columbia Riverfront (formerly The Red Lion On The River), 909 N. Hayden Island Drive, Portland, OR 97217. Room rates: Standard Room (two queen beds) \$149.00 plus tax; Premium rooms (two queen or one king bed) \$159.00 plus tax.

Host gardens:

[Aitken’s Salmon Creek Garden](#), Vancouver, WA

[Miller’s Manor Gardens](#), Canby, OR

[Mt. Pleasant Iris Farm](#), Washougal, WA

[Misty River Garden](#), Canby, OR

[Mid-America Garden](#), Salem, OR

AIS Region 2 Annual General Meeting

Saturday, October 28, 2023, at 12:00 PM (ET)
Including a new AIS Webinar at 1:30 PM (ET)



Neomarica caerulea

This year's Annual General Meeting will be held via zoom in two-parts. Part one will be the business portion of the day while part two will be a new AIS Webinar.

For the business portion, all Region 2 members will receive an email requesting they pre-register in advance. This will be sent to you in October from Benjamin Morris, our secretary. Once you pre-register you will receive a zoom link to join.

For the AIS Webinar portion, an invitation to pre-register will be published in the October edition of *AIS News And Notes* along with a description of the presentation. Once you pre-register you will receive a different zoom link to join this portion of our day.

You must pre-register for both zoom events if you want to attend the business meeting and the AIS webinar.

During the business meeting our treasurer will present a financial report including the budget for 2024. Committee chairs will give their annual reports and affiliate chairs will select a regional show award for their 2024 flower shows.

Members will also vote on the slate of nominations for the Board of Directors (see page 8 for a list of this year's nominations).

If you would like to review the minutes from 2022's Annual General Meeting, a copy can be found on the AIS Region 2 website, [Meetings \(aisregion2.org\)](https://aisregion2.org).

When the meeting is over, we will take a break to give everyone a few minutes to stretch their legs, refresh their beverage glass, and sign off from the business zoom meeting and onto the webinar. Starting at 1:00 pm ET the link will be open. This will give everyone time to settle in, greet the speaker, and possibly catch up with some iris friends in far away places. At 1:30 pm ET, the new AIS webinar on *The Iris Family* will begin. Our speaker will be Bob Pries, AIS Encyclopedia Manager. The Iris Family includes many types of plants, and Bob will discuss which ones will grow in our climate and their care.

Mark your calendars and plan to join us!



Croscosmia

General Meeting Agenda

Call to Order and welcome – Cara Hutchings. RVP

Roll Call – Ben Morris, Secretary

Additions or corrections to the minutes of the October 22, 2022, AIS Region 2 General Meeting

Treasurer's Report – Annette Kuhn, Treasurer

Committee Reports - Archives – Benjamin Morris

Awards & Exhibitions – Cara Hutchings

Judges Training – Wendy Roller

Membership – Cara Hutchings

Newsletter Editor – Kate Brewitt

Technology Consultant – Neil Houghton

Webmaster - Kate Brewitt

New Business

- 1) Budget for 2024
- 2) Show Dates and Awards
- 3) Vote on Officers

Adjournment



Nominating Committee Report

by Kathryn Mohr, Acting Assistant RVP and Committee Chair

According to the By-laws of Region 2 of the American Iris Society, all officers are elected annually and can serve no more than three consecutive years except for the Treasurer and Secretary. 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 11, 2023.

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

Assistant Regional Vice President (Assistant RVP) – OPEN

Secretary – Benjamin Morris

Treasurer – Annette Kuhn (WNYIS)

Once approved, voting will take place during the AIS Region 2 Annual General Meeting on Saturday October 28, 2023.

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 be done by roll call.

2023 Awards and Exhibitions

Compiled by Kate Brewitt. All photos © David Baehre

Western New York Iris Society, June 3rd

WNYIS was the only Region 2 Affiliate to hold an AIS sanctioned flower show this year. The show was a great success. Thanks to everyone who gave their time and energy to help make this happen. Congratulations to all the winners.



Pictured above is the WNYIS 2023 Iris show award recipients. They are as follows,

Best Specimen of the Show: TB 'Common Thread' (center), exhibited by Dave Baehre

First Runner-Up: TB 'Slow Motion' (left of center), exhibited by Dave Baehre

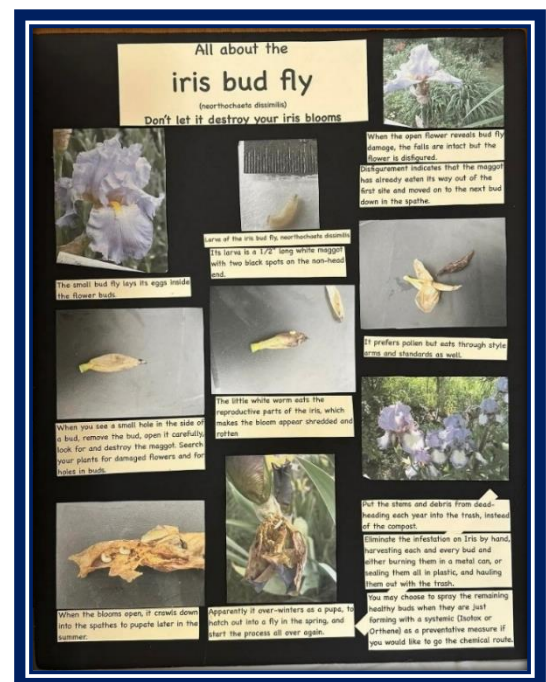
Second Runner-Up: MTB 'Bit O' Royalty' (right of center), exhibited by Joanne Bassett

Other award recipients shown in this picture are Best Perennial of Show: Allium – exhibited by Marilee Farry (far left), and The McGarvey Award (region award): SIB 'Charming Billy' – exhibited by Maria Gerbracht (far right).

Additional AIS awards include AIS Silver Medal awarded to Joanne Bassett and AIS Bronze Medal awarded to Joseph Babulski.



Members also participated in a centerpiece competition with an oriental and line-design theme. Centerpieces were created using foliage and flowers of the exhibitor's choice (iris not required). Awards were given for Best Artistic Design: "August 12 Iris Sale", exhibited by Joanne Bassett (pictured left), and Best Design of Show: "Iris Garden Visits", exhibited by Annette Kuhn (pictured right).



In the Educational display class the Best Educational Award was awarded to "Siberian Iris and Care of Siberians", exhibited by Velma Szczesny and Joanne Bassett (pictured left), while second place went to a display on "Iris Bud Fly", exhibited by Carolyn Schaefer (pictured right).



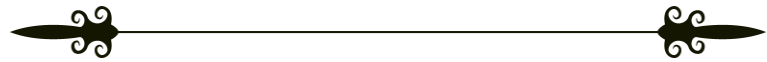
Pictured left is a happy David Baehre with his winning collection of iris exhibits. They are as follows,

Best Specimen of the Show: TB 'Common Thread' – iris on the right.

First Runner-Up: TB 'Slow Motion' – iris in the center.

WNYIS 'Mary Pat Award' for best pink: TB 'Bashful Look' – iris on the left.

The Capital-Hudson Iris Society, the Greater Rochester Iris Society, and the Ontario Iris Society, cancelled their flower shows this year. They hope to be back in 2024!



2023 Wister Medal Recipient 'Chihuahuan Desert'



TB 'Chihuahuan Desert' © Howie Dash

2023 Wister Medal Recipient continued.

Congratulations to Howie Dash on receiving the 2023 Wister Medal for his iris tall-bearded iris 'Chihuahuan Desert'. Each year three Wister Medals are awarded, as voted by AIS registered judges.

Long time members of AIS Region 2 will remember Howie as a member of the Hudson Valley Iris and Daylily Society (HVIDS). During his time with them he served as vice-president and president. In 2009 he and his wife, Lilly, moved to Las Cruces, New Mexico, when he embarked on his hybridizing journey. 'Chihuahuan Desert' was one of Howie's first introductions, along with 'Organ Mountain Sunrise'.

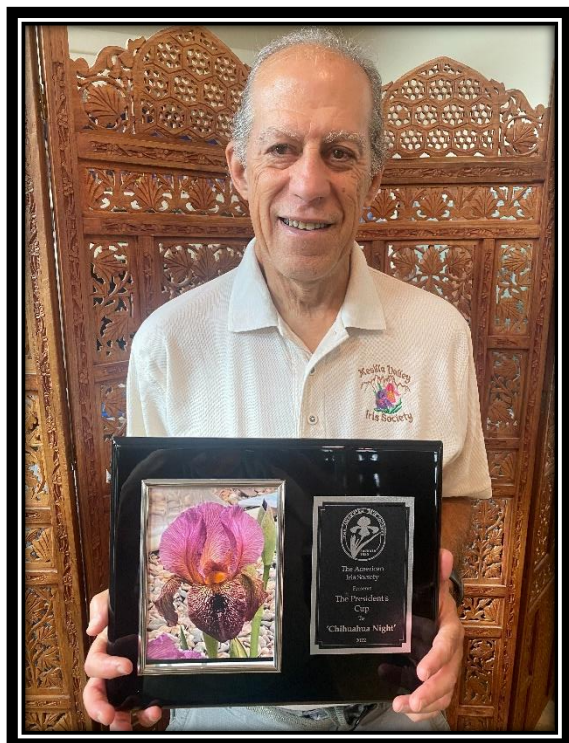
Howie's irises have received other awards as well. At the 2017 AIS National Convention in Des Moines, Iowa, he won the Lloyd Zubrigg-Clarence Mahan Seedling Cup for his seedling ADG 11-02-04. This seedling was eventually named 'Flamingo Fever'.

In 2015, Howie started hybridizing arilbred irises. His first introduction, 'Chihuahua Night', won the President's Cup at the 2022 AIS National Convention in Las Cruces, New Mexico.

When I emailed Howie to get information on him and his introductions, he ended his email by saying he feels lucky that his irises have been well received, and that he is fortunate that several have been awarded with Honorable Mentions and/or Award of Merits.



'Flamingo Fever' © Howie Dash



Congratulations, Howie, from AIS Region 2!

Left: Howie in 2022 with the President's Cup award he received for arilbred 'Chihuahua Night', actual flower pictured below © Howie Dash.





Membership Corner

Welcome New Members

K. Arbour – Oshawa, ON
 I. Borsellega – North Bellmore, NY
 A. Jackson – New York City, NY
 S. Kronau – Poestenkill, NY
 G. Laudanno – Commack, NY
 V. Lockhart – Fulton, NY
 M. Matros – Schenectady, NY
 A. Plugin – Brampton, ON
 F. Pronovost – Chicoutimi, QC

Look Up Your AIS Membership Expiry Date

Using this link, go to the Web-Based Lookup page on the AIS website,

[Web Based Lookup – American Iris Society \(irises.org\).](https://www.irises.org/web-based-lookup)

To find your record, type your last name in the search box (case-sensitive) found above the *Membership Good Through* column. You can also sort by region (R02 for Region 2), by name (first or last) or by expiry date (sorted alphabetically by month).

AIS Membership Expiring in 2023? Take Advantage of the AIS 2023 Membership Drive!

If your Basic membership (printed bulletin only) expires during 2023 and if, at the time of renewal, you upgrade to a Full membership, (printed bulletin, access to online bulletin, and access to the online Irisregister Database) you will receive a voucher for a FREE annual membership to a section or cooperating society to which you are a first-time member.

PARTICIPATING SECTIONS AND COOPERATING SOCIETIES

- [Aril Society International \(ASI\)](#)
- [Median Iris Society \(MIS\)](#)
- [Society for Siberian Iris \(SSI\)](#)
- [Society for Louisiana Iris \(SLI\)](#)
- [Reblooming Iris Society \(RIS\)](#)
- [Historic Iris Preservation Society \(HIPS\)](#)
- [Society for Pacific Coast Native Iris](#)
- [Dwarf Iris Society \(DIS\)](#)
- [Tall Bearded Iris Society \(TBIS\)](#)
- [Spuria Iris Society \(SIS\)](#)
- [Society for Japanese Iris \(SJI\)](#)
- [Novelty Iris Society](#)
- [Species Iris Group of North America \(SIGNA\)](#)

Capital-Hudson Iris Society (CHIS)

From Arden Lawand with contributions by Maria Degenef, Kathryn Mohr and Michele Young.

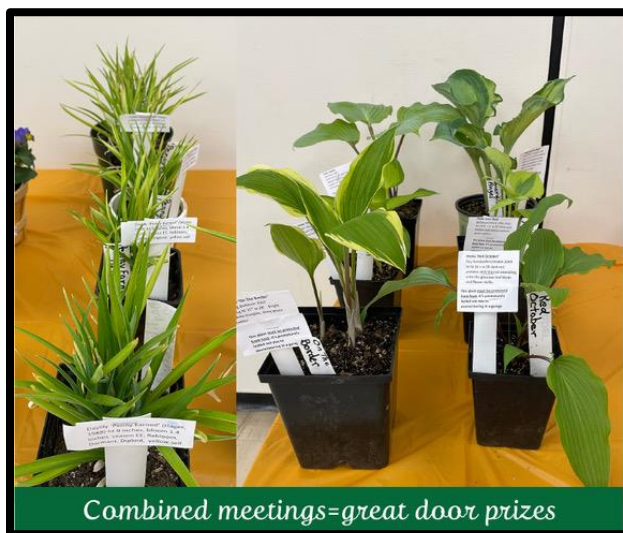
CHIS meets at the Albany County Cooperative Extension Office at 24 Martin Road in Voorheesville, NY. During 2023 joint meetings were held with the Upstate New York Hosta Society (UNYHS), and the Hudson-Adirondack Daylily Society (HADS). Arden Lawand, UNYHS newsletter editor extraordinaire, allocates pages in their newsletter for CHIS and HADS to report.

For three days in March CHIS, along with the local daylily and hosta societies manned an educational booth at the Capital Region Garden and Flower Expo. Kathryn Mohr gave a presentation entitled "Growing Irises in the Northeast".

In April, UNYHS, CHIS and HADS held their first combined meeting. Kathryn Mohr presented a program titled "Try Growing a New Type of Iris".

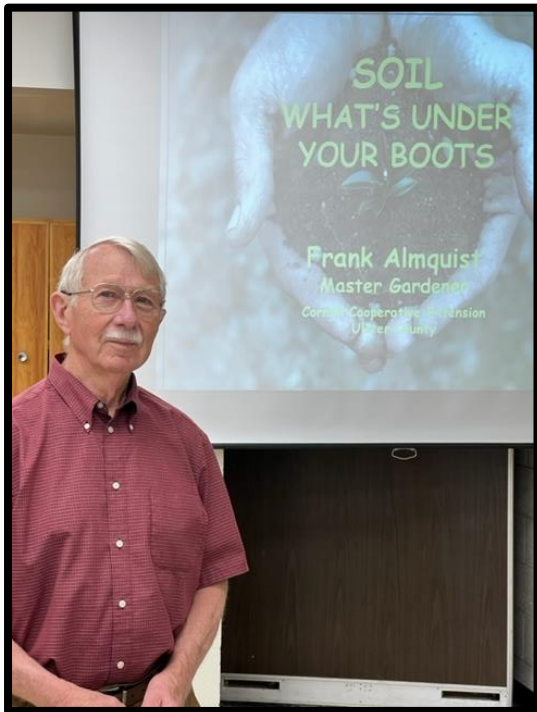


From left to right, Kathryn, Lena and Michelle - © Arden Lawand



Combined meetings=great door prizes

No meeting would be complete without door prizes © Arden Lawand



In May, Frank Almquist, Master Gardener and UNYHS member, gave a presentation titled "What Is Under your Boots, An In-depth Discussion on Soils."

Left: photo of Frank Almquist © Jorge Padilla

Attendees to June's meeting enjoyed a presentation on "Growing Dahlias" given by Lee Ryan, Master Gardener.

In July CHIS, HADS, and UNYHS had a combined summer picnic which included a garden tour. It was a huge success with more than 40 members, friends, guests, and master garden tour guides coming out to enjoy the event. On the garden tour were numerous Albany County Cooperative Extension well-tended display gardens which looked gorgeous. As usual, the "potluck" picnic feast that followed was a big hit. Local vendors offered hosta plant selections and a variety of pollinator friendly perennials for sale.



'Wave at the Camera' - An enthusiast group of picnic attendees © Arden Lawand

Looking Ahead to Our Fall Calendar

Meetings are at the Cornell Cooperative Extension of Albany County Office at 24 Martin Road in Voorheesville, NY beginning at 10:00 am unless otherwise noted.

September 16 – Debi Chowdhury will provide news from this year's iris and daylily national conventions.

October 21 – Dave Jennings will give a presentation entitled 'For the Love of Hosta'.

November 18 - Addison Kubik of the Cornell Cooperative Extension will discuss Invasive Species Management

December 16 – CHIS, HADS and UNYHS will meet for a combined holiday party. Contact one of the CHIS officers for details.

CHIS Officers:

CHIS Chair (Acting): Kathryn Mohr – kemohrke@aol.com

Vice Chairs (Acting): Euthemia Matsoukas - euthemiamatsoukas@gmail.com

Secretary: Virginia Dorwaldt - vmdorwaldt@gmail.com

Treasurer: Don Salhoff - driris2000@hotmail.com

More News from CHIS, HADS, and UNYHS

By Kathryn Moher, CHIS President (Acting)

The Hudson-Adirondack Daylily Society (HADS) daylily sale was August 19th.

The Friday before the sale was preparation day. Volunteers gathered at the new location, Albany County Cooperative Extension office in Voorheesville, to organize the plants for the sale. Some plants were taken from part of the HADS Display Garden while additional plants came from donors who brought their daylilies already washed and divided. Twelve volunteers had a great time chatting as they worked to dig, clean, divide and bag the plants. The HADS hospitality team provided snacks and drinks while lunch was ordered in from Emma Cleary's Cafe. At the end of the day 371 bags were boxed up for transport to the sale.

Saturday's sale was held at Faddegan's Nursery in Latham. Eleven members assisted. Though there were fewer customers than usual; all left



loaded down with plants. Members were able to give each buyer ample individual attention.

The HADS preparation day and sale once again demonstrated the advantages of the three societies working together. Three new volunteers joined HADS' usual team, CHIS and HADS tents provided shade on Friday, and we enjoyed a pleasant time with gardening friends.

Pictures of HADS prep day and sale © Lena Degeneff

Greater Rochester Iris Society (GRIS)

By Cara Hutchings, Affiliate Chair

The Greater Rochester Iris Society kept an active membership busy this year. At our March meeting we discussed companion planting with irises and were treated to a wonderful power point presentation by Neil Houghton. Everyone suggested plants they used with their irises, so some great ideas were shared!

At our April meeting, we demonstrated different ways to keep your irises identified, whether it be mapping, plant stakes or a combination (preferably). Different types of plant stakes were shown, along with information on how to order some of them, with a discount going to AIS members (*for details check the shopping section of IRISES for the Kincaid Plant Markers ad – ed*). We also provided information on the resources available to identify an unidentified iris with the AIS WIKI being the number one choice! ([WebHome < Main < Iris Wiki \(irises.org\)](#) – ed.)

On a cool morning in May members, friends and family of GRIS went to Iris Country Gardens, the former home of Dana and Sylvia Borglum, iris hybridizers from New York State. Now owned by sisters Reba and Sara Martin, it is always a great destination for iris lovers.

It had been two years since some of us had been to the gardens, and there were changes aplenty! They are slowly renovating each area, bringing more and different varieties of iris and other perennials for our perusal and enjoyment. Fortunately, they still have the ‘dig-your-own’ iris bed, and we had a great time picking out good size rhizomes and digging them up (shovels are provided)!

We had hoped to have a picnic lunch, but the weather had other ideas, with the forecasted late afternoon rain coming early. So, we ate in our cars and headed home...although the rain and cold did not deter us from stopping for ice cream on our way home!



GRIS members take a road trip to Iris Country Gardens in Geneva, NY

While we didn't have a show this year, we did have a picnic, raffle, and demonstration at Neil Houghton's annual Diamond Rise get-together. Besides having a great meal we toured Neil's very impressive garden. There was a demonstration on how to prepare your irises for the show bench along with a discussion on what constitutes a good iris for show judging. While we didn't have any judges present, I think we did a good job of deciding what is a ribbon winner and what is not. With members generously sharing iris stalks from their gardens, we had plenty of irises to look over.

In August we had our annual rhizome sale with irises brought in from Mid-America Garden. It was held at Bristol's Garden Center, a local Rochester favorite. Our sale was supposed to be for two days, however circumstances resulted in it being held for only one. But we did gain four new members!



Diamond Rise Garden © Neil Houghton

We had a pop-up rhizome sale at Neil's house the next weekend which did well. The remainders were potted, and we will use them as door prizes at our upcoming meetings, as well as giveaways at a talk Cara Hutchings will be doing in October at the local Hosta society meeting.

Our next meeting is September 10th, where we will be discussing tips for planting the irises that were purchased at the sale. And at our last meeting of the year, on October 8th, we will be discussing how to winterize your garden, especially your irises.

Meetings are held the second Sunday of the month at the St. John's Episcopal Church, 11 Episcopal Avenue, Honeoye Falls, NY 14472 starting at 2:00 pm.

GRIS Officers:

Affiliate Chair: Cara Hutchings - thehutchings@mac.com

Vice Chair: Neil Houghton – neil.houghton@me.com or nhoughtonirises@gmail.com

Secretary/Treasurer: Nate Hutchings - thehutchings@mac.com

Ontario Iris Society (ONIS)

By Kate Brewitt, Affiliate Secretary



We finally returned to in-person events after a three-year hiatus!

August saw us at the Toronto Botanical Garden (TBG) for our iris rhizome auction and sale. An order from Mid-America Garden was brought in for the auction. Owner, Thomas Johnson provided us with many 2023 introductions, so bidders' cards were frantically waving as they tried to acquire a new Paul Black, Thomas Johnson, or Linda Miller iris. Members also kindly provided rhizomes from their gardens for the table sales which had some buyers going back two and three times to make sure they hadn't missed anything.

We also had two very successful on-line fund raisers. The first one in July which was our usually on-line offering of rhizomes from Aurora Borealis Iris Garden. This year's sale saw twice as many participants as last year. Then we had what you could call a 'pop-up' sale in August. When we found ourselves with an inordinate number of rhizomes remaining from the August 13th table sales, we offered them to members and Facebook friends unable to attend. Surprisingly, we sold out in five days.

At our fall meeting in October the Board will discuss events for 2024. Among the items to be discussed is a return to the Toronto Botanical Garden for a June flower show.



Join us on Facebook, [Ontario Iris Society | Facebook](#). Our group continues to grow as we share our gardening experiences and iris pictures. You might meet a new friend or two. You can also visit our website at [Ontario Iris Society \(google.com\)](#) for information on our events.

ONIS events are held at the Toronto Botanical Garden, 777 Lawrence Avenue E., Toronto, ON.

ONIS Officers:

Affiliate Chair: Terrance Laurin – tlaurin@rogers.com

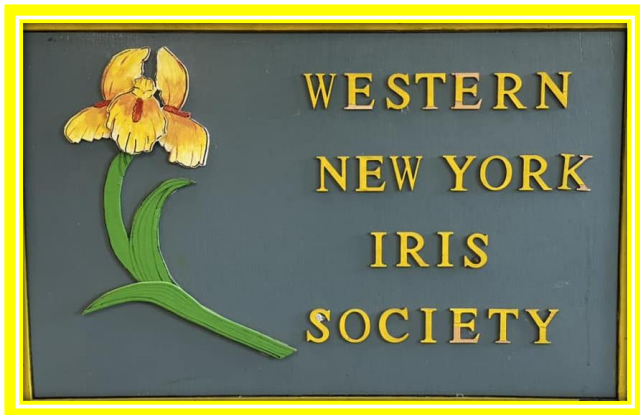
Vice Chair: Jinny Missons - jojimissons@sympatico.com

Secretary: Kate Brewitt – kbrewitt@rogers.com

Treasurer: Lyn Hickey – lhickey94@hotmail.com

Western New York Iris Society (WNYIS)

By Marilee Farry, Affiliate Chair



We've been busy these past few months. We completed the AIS requirements necessary to have three members recommended for Artistic Design Certification. We are also recommending that three members be "grandfathered in" as Artistic Design Judges based on their vast expertise in creating and judging artistic designs at Region 2 iris shows. Recommendations are also being made for a Candidate for Judgeship to advance to Apprentice Judge status.

At our May meeting, members enjoyed a presentation given by Wendy Roller. She spoke to the group on medium irises.

Our flower show was in June, and it was a good experience. David Baehre won first and second place plus our Mary Pat award (best pink iris of show). Joanne Bassett won third place while Maria Gerbracht won the AIS Region 2 Magdalen Award. Joanne won the Artistic Design Award and Annette Kuhn won the Best Design Award. Marilee Farry won the Best Perennial with a large Allium from her garden. Participation by members was excellent, and we had over forty visitors stop by to view the displays. Hard work created a good show! (*See 2023 Awards and Exhibitions Report on page 9 for pictures – ed*)

There was good attendance at our July picnic considering it was vacation time. During the meeting portion of the day, some changes were introduced to our group. Two board meetings will replace regular meetings, which will reduce long business discussions at the regular meetings. Also, it was decided that both iris garden/horticulture and design would be at every meeting. We had many good suggestions for upcoming meetings (iris and ponds, speakers, show schedule assistance, and a photo contest in conjunction with the library).

In August we had our iris sale at the Lake Erie Italian Club. We had seven members assisting the public plus we had an historic iris expert, Mike Walters, to answer questions about historic iris. (*These are irises introduced into commerce more than 30 years ago. - ed*) Many members donated irises plus irises were brought in from Sutton's Iris Garden. It was a successful sale, as we met our goals. We have enough irises remaining to offer potted iris in drawings at the October meeting.

As our year draws to a close, we look forward to seeing what's in store for next year. The 2023/2024 calendar will be presented at the board meeting on September 10th at the Julia B. Reinstein Library. David and Marilee kindly gave their time to put this together.

We are hoping to attract new members with our calendar changes and bonus gifts. The Nominating Committee is hard at work and hopefully we will have new officers to liven up our

agendas for 2023-2024. WNYIS's recruitment brochure, produced by Jodie Baehre, is in process and should be available for our October meeting. Recruitment is ongoing.

It was a very good season for WNYIS.



Join us on Facebook, [Western New York Iris Society | Facebook](#) or visit our [website](#) to find out more about this Region 2 affiliate.

WNYIS meets the first Sunday of the month at the Julia Boyers Reinstein Library, 1030 Losson Road South, Cheektowaga, NY.

WNYIS Officers:

Affiliate Chair: Marilee Farry – farmare@aol.com

Vice Chair: Ida Blasak – iblasak7113@gmail.com

Secretary: David Baehre – dwbfarm@gmail.com

Treasurer: Annette Kuhn – akuhn43@yahoo.com



More designs from the WNYIS Flower Show

Left: Artistic Design entry exhibited by Chris Kzral;

Right: Education Design entry exhibited by Velma Szczesny

Judges' Training Update

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 July 31, 2023

Active Master Judges (served as a judge for over 15 years)

David Baehre*	Chuck Chapman	Wendy K. Roller
Joanne Bassett*	Terrance Laurin	Janette Smith
Kate Brewitt	Donna J. Lowry**	

Garden/Exhibition Judges (served as a judge for less than 15 years)

Marilee Farry**	Jinny Missons	Suzanne Perry
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Candidate For Judgeship (in process of completing required training sessions)

Annette Kuhn*

Retired Master Judges (may serve as show judge if joined by at least one fully accredited judge. Must be AIS member in good standing.)

John Colley	Daniel McMillen	Kathleen Shadrack
Maria Gerbracht**	Gloria McMillen	Dorothy Stiefel
Donna James	Vaughn Sayles	
Maureen Mark	Helen Schueler	

*Currently enrolled in the AIS Artistic Design Judge Accreditation Program

**Currently seeking to be "grandfathered in" as an AIS Artistic Design Judge

THE YEAR IN REVIEW

August 1, 2022 to July 31, 2023

Region 2 accredited judges and one student judge collectively earned 20 hours of credit for attending or presenting in-garden judges training sessions. Accredited judges and one student judge also collectively earned 34 credit hours for attending judges training classroom sessions via zoom.

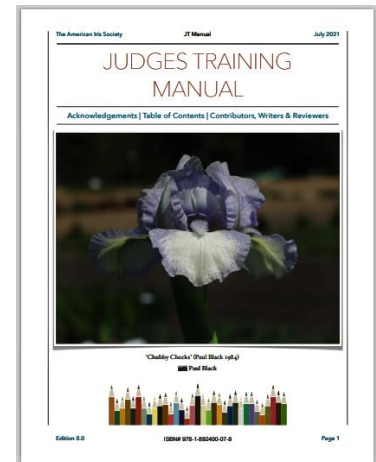
The following judges training sessions were offered within Region 2 during the last year:

- In September 2022, AIS Master Judge Chuck Chapman presented a two-hour in-garden judges training session on Reblooming Irises at his farm property in Guelph, Ontario, Canada.
- In June 2023, AIS Master Judge Joanne Bassett presented a two-hour in-garden judges training session on Siberian Irises in her home garden in Marilla, New York.

- When three members of the Western New York Iris Society were interested in being certified as artistic design judges as part of the new AIS Design Judge Artistic Accreditation Program, AIS Garden/Exhibition Judge Marilee Farry designed and taught a course to fulfill the requirements. Once a month from November, 2022 to March, 2023, the class met at the Julia B. Reinstein Library in Cheektowaga, NY to study the principles of artistic design, to discuss how to judge artistic designs entered at iris shows (based on requirements of the AIS), to take and successfully pass a 30-question test on the principals and elements of design, and to critique the design every participant made as an assignment for each class session. Each of the participants spent a minimum of 15 hours to fulfill the course requirements.

JUDGES' TRAINING MANUAL - EDITION 8.22

A printable version of the manual can be found on the AIS WIKI:
[Info2022AISJudgesHandbook < Hist < Iris Wiki \(irises.org\).](https://www.irises.org/wiki/Info2022AISJudgesHandbook)



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 + online access)

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

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

Basic Membership (Printed Bulletin, no online access)

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

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

E-Membership: One-year online 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://www.irises.org/members) for a list of additional membership types. There is also a link that allows you to pay for your membership with PayPal.



AIS Region 2 Online

Did you know that affiliates have their own webpage on the Region 2 website?

Did you know previous editions of the Region 2 newsletter are online?

Here are some links that you may find useful.

AIS Region 2 website: [Home Page \(aisregion2.org\)](https://aisregion2.org)

Capital-Hudson Iris Society (CHIS)

[CHIS \(aisregion2.org\)](https://aisregion2.org/CHIS)

Ontario Iris Society (ONIS)

[ONIS \(aisregion2.org\)](https://aisregion2.org/ONIS)

Greater Rochester Iris Society (GRIS)

[GRIS \(aisregion2.org\)](https://aisregion2.org/GRIS)

Western New York Iris Society (WNYIS)

[WNYIS \(aisregion2.org\)](https://aisregion2.org/WNYIS)



[Greater Rochester NY Irises | Facebook](#)

[Ontario Iris Society | Facebook](#)

[Western New York Iris Society | Facebook](#)

You can also find the American Iris Society Online:

American Iris Society Website: [American Iris Society \(irises.org\)](https://irises.org)

AIS Iris Encyclopedia [WebHome < Main < Iris Wiki \(irises.org\)](#)

including the Ben R Hager – Sidney DuBose Memorial Online Iris Library

[The American Iris Society - YouTube](#) contains past webinars, including JT sessions, presented by the AIS.

[World of Irises \(theamericanirissociety.blogspot.com\)](https://theamericanirissociety.blogspot.com)



The American Iris Society is also on social media,

[The American Iris Society | Facebook](#)

[The American Iris Society \(@theamericanirissociety\) • Instagram photos and videos](#)

The Newsletter of Region 2 of the American Iris Society is published twice a year and e-mailed 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