

Region 2 of the American Iris Society

NEWSLETTER

New York - Ontario - Quebec

AUTUMN 2024

IN THIS EDITION



IB 'Spiked' (M. Sutton, 2006)
© k. brewitt

WHO WE ARE	2
RVP MESSAGE	3
FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK	4
REGION 2 ANNUAL MEETING	5
NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT	6
SPRING REGIONAL IN THE GARDEN	7
TREASURER'S REPORT	8
AWARDS AND EXHIBITIONS	9
MEMBERSHIP REPORT	11
JUDGES' TRAINING REPORT	12
LOOKING FOR VOLUNTEERS	13
CAPITAL-HUDSON IRIS SOCIETY	14
SOME FUN IRISES TO GROW	14
GREATER ROCHESTER IRIS SOCIETY	16
ONTARIO IRIS SOCIETY	18
WESTERN NEW YORK IRIS SOCIETY	20
2023 BOARD MEETING MINUTES	23
2023 GENERAL MEETING MINUTES	26
2025 AIS NATIONAL CONVENTION	28
AIS REGION 2 ONLINE	28

Who We Are

Region 2 of the American Iris Society

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

Officers

Regional Vice President (RVP)

Cara Hutchings – rvp@aisregion2.org

Assistant RVP - Position Open

Interim Secretary

Kate Brewitt – just1moreiris@gmail.com

Treasurer

Annette Kuhn – akuhn43@yahoo.com

Affiliate Chairpersons

Capital-Hudson Iris Society (CHIS)

Kathryn Mohr – kemohrke@aol.com

Greater Rochester Iris Society (GRIS)

Cara Hutchings – thehutchings@mac.com

Ontario Iris Society (ONIS)

Terrance Laurin – tlaurin@rogers.com

Western New York Iris Society (WNYIS)

Ida Blasak – iblasak7113@gmail.com

Committee Chairpersons

Archives – Position open

Awards & Exhibitions – Position open

Bylaws

Kate Brewitt - just1moreiris@gmail.com

Judges Training

Wendy Roller – gwr67@frontier.com

Membership

Georgette Martin

martingeorgette@aol.com

Newsletter Editor and Webmaster

Kate Brewitt (See Bylaws)



'Enemy Attack'

(S. Ives, 2023)

© M. Mark

RVP Message

Cara Hutchings, AIS Region 2 RVP



In June, my husband Nathan and I were able to go to the AIS national convention. It was later than the usual April-May time frame so the Society for Japanese Iris could hold their convention at the same time. This was the first convention for both of us, and we did not know what to expect.

We had a wonderful time! Various sections gave presentations where we learned about everything from how to grow Japanese iris in extreme conditions to the achievements of a great hybridizer of novelty iris who left us too soon.

And then there were the garden tours. Meeting Terry Aitken and seeing his garden, a legend among hybridizers, who is retiring soon. Finally seeing Chad Harris' garden, after hearing so much about it when he came to the Region 2 annual meeting in 2017. Exploring Mid-America Garden, from whom GRIS and ONIS have purchased irises for their rhizome sales. And the other gardens, talking to the growers, exploring the gardens, we had a fantastic time. We were talking and discussing irises with people whose names we had read about regularly in issues of the AIS Bulletin, *IRISES*. It was great realizing that iris lovers from all over the US and Canada have the same joys and problems as we do in Region 2.

At the awards dinner on our last night, we sat with some members of the committee who are planning the 2025 convention in Montana. We were already planning to go as we have family in the area. Now we know what to expect and we are very much looking forward to it.

I highly recommend going to a convention. It took me almost 19 years, since I joined AIS, to convince myself to go. I started out small, getting involved in my local society, going to shows and annual meetings. Then I became more involved in the region, attending judges' training events and joining the board. Now I am RVP and going to conventions!

You too can realize the joy and wonder of an AIS convention. The 2026 convention is happening in our own back yard, in New Jersey & New York City. Start out small, get involved in your local society, or if you do not have one, start one! We have the resources to help you. The more iris lovers you meet, the more you want to learn and enjoy your favorite flower.

Cara Hutchings



Region 2 Monthly Zoom Meetings

Monthly Zoom meetings are scheduled for the second Wednesday of every month. **Start time is 7:00 PM ET.** Members are encouraged to attend.

Our next meeting is September 11, 2024

From the Editor's Desk



In my part of the region, it was a summer of broken records...sadly not the 'are-we-there-yet' kind but rather temperature and rainfall records. If you noticed the Canadian headlines, Toronto had the wettest summer on record. We live about 40 km (25 miles) north of Toronto and even though no records were broken, it sure was a wet summer. We hooked up our garden hose in late July, and then it was used on only two occasions. Temperature records were broken as well. On some days, if I did not finish my weeding (weeds love the rain!) before 10:00 am, the day was lost as humidex values were soaring over 38°C (100°F)...not my idea of 'fun in the sun'!

But enough about the weather...there is lots to read in this newsletter!

If you were like me and could not make it to the spring regional in May, our RVP has provided an account of the day along with some pictures starting on [page 6](#). Sounds like it was a fun day!

With our affiliates returning to their routine of shows, sales, and other events, they had lots of news to share. Two affiliates (WNYIS and ONIS) held AIS sanctioned shows. The award recipients are listed on [page 9](#). Otherwise, read the affiliate reports which start on [page 14](#).

Coming up in October is our Region 2 annual general meeting. This will be held Saturday, October 26th via Zoom. Our guest speaker will be Chuck Chapman, iris hybridizer and owner of Chapman Iris in Ontario. Details start on [page 5](#).

We also continue to look for volunteers to fill the open positions on the board. If you have time to spare, and are interested, on [page 13](#) is a list of some of the open positions. We would love to hear from you. The continuation of our region depends on it.

Finally, this is my last Region 2 newsletter as editor. After six years and twelve editions it is time for someone else to take the helm. Perhaps it is time to change the way we connect.

Technology has provided us with lots of options. Why not a shorter, more regular e-newsletter using one of the many marketing platforms? How about a regional group on Facebook, one of many networking groups available. In the meantime, thank you to everyone who submitted pictures, provided me with copy and put up with my millions of 'clarifying emails'. Without you this newsletter would not have been possible. It has been a great learning experience!

Wishing everyone a floriferous garden!

Kate (just1moreiris@gmail.com)



Pictured above: TB 'Cause for Pause' (Burseen, 2007 - © k. brewitt.

AIS Region 2 Annual General Meeting

Saturday, October 26, 2024, at 11:00 AM (ET)

Followed by a Zoom presentation

from iris hybridizer Chuck Chapman at 1:00 PM (ET)

This year's Annual General Meeting will be held via Zoom. All members of Region 2 of the American Iris Society are encouraged to attend. You will receive a pre-registration email in October. Click the link, complete the registration form, and click the register button to receive an email with the 'JOIN MEETING' link.

This year's speaker is Chuck Chapman, iris hybridizer and owner of Chapman Iris, Canada's largest and longest operating iris farm. It is located north of Guelph in Ontario. The topic of Chuck's presentation is 'Mixed Color in Iris and Broken Color'. If you are a fan of irises like 'Batik', 'Peggy Anne' or any of the irises shown on this page, it guarantees to be an interesting talk.

Participants will be able to join the meeting at any time which means there are three ways to participate.

1. **Join us for the business meeting only.** This starts at 11:00 am during which our treasurer will present a financial report and the 2025 budget. Affiliate presidents and committee chairs will give their annual reports, and Region 2 members will vote on the slate of nominees for the officers' positions. (See [page 6](#) for a list of this year's nominations).



TB 'Gnus Flash'
(Kasperek, 1996)
© k. brewitt



BB 'Raspberry Silk'
(Spoon, 2000)
© k. brewitt

2. **Join us for both the business meeting and the presentation.** The business portion will start at 11:00 am, ending between 12:00 noon and 12:30 pm. There will be a break after which we will pick up again for the presentation which starts at 1:00 pm.

3. **Join us for Chuck Chapman's presentation only.** This will begin at 1:00 pm so please join the Zoom meeting 5 to 10 minutes beforehand.

If you would like to review the minutes from 2023's board and general meetings, you will find them in this newsletter, starting on [page 23](#).

Mark your calendars and plan to join us!

General Meeting Agenda

Saturday, October 26, 2024, at 11:00 AM (ET)

Call to Order and welcome by RVP.

Secretary's Report

Treasurer's Report

Affiliate Reports – Capital-Hudson Iris Society
Greater Rochester Iris Society
Ontario Iris Society
Western New York Iris Society

Committee Reports – Archives Update
Bylaws Chair
Awards & Exhibition Committee
Judging Training Chair
Membership Chair
Newsletter/Website Chair

New Business

- 1) Budget for 2025
- 2) Show Award Selection by Affiliates
- 3) Vote on Officers

Adjournment



Nominating Committee Report

Submitted by Cara Hutchings, RVP and Acting 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 the board meeting on October 23, 2024.

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

Assistant Regional Vice President (Assistant RVP) – Debi Chowdhury (CHIS)

Secretary – Kate Brewitt (ONIS)

Treasurer – Annette Kuhn (WNYIS)

If approved, members will vote on this slate of officers during the AIS Region 2 Annual General Meeting on Saturday October 26, 2024.

Nominations for any office may be made from the 'floor' at the general meeting, but nominees must be present and agree to serve. If there are nominations from the 'floor' voting will be done by roll call.

“Spring Regional in the Garden”

Region 2 Spring Gathering, May 25, 2024

By Cara Hutchings, RVP



*Dave Baehre’s garden.
© C. Hutchings*

May 25th dawned bright and sunny, perfect weather for the Spring Regional in the Garden, hosted by the Western NY Iris Society. Dave Baehre opened his garden for the event. And what a garden! From the gazebo centerpiece to the iris bed the full length of the driveway, the garden was gorgeous. We started with a judges’ training session with Wendy Roller, learning how to judge iris in the garden. Everyone wanted a measuring stick like Wendy had, with the minimum and maximum heights of the bearded iris classes marked on it.



Nathan (far left), Wendy (with the aforementioned measuring stick) and Kathryn (going in for a close-up) during Wendy’s in-garden training. Curious to know what Nathan is thinking about.

Next up was lunch, Dave had a wonderful picnic area all set up. Unfortunately, Mother Nature had other plans. It started to rain, but the Baehres had plenty of room in their house and garage.

After an excellent lunch, we gathered in the garage for a judges’ training session given by Donna Lowry. Annette Kuhn had assembled an arrangement, as would be done for an iris show. Donna then had us judge it, according to the AIS Judges’ Handbook. It was a fantastic way to learn!

© C. Hutchings



Donna Lowry giving Artistic Design training - © Greg Mohr



© C. Hutchings

After that, we checked out what we had successfully bid on at the silent auction and looked over the plants WNYIS had potted up for sale. We then paid for our winning bids and our newly acquired plants, said our goodbyes, and headed home. An enjoyable day in a beautiful garden, even with the rain.

Editor's note – I am sorry I missed this event! My participation was limited to watching the radar on the Weather Channel, and 'willing' the cold front to stall long enough over Lake Erie for at least the in-garden judges' training. Sounds like it worked!



Treasurer's Report

Submitted by Annette Kuhn, Treasurer

As of August 1, 2024, Region 2 of the American Society Iris Society has \$7,604.28 in its checking account and a \$1,000 I-bond valued at \$1,093.17 which includes accumulated interest. Total assets as of July 31, 2024, are \$8,697.45.

Total revenue received since January 1, 2024, was \$200.57. This was made up of an affiliate contribution of \$100.00, revenue from the Spring Gathering silent auction of \$45.00, a reversal of \$10 in bank charges and I-bond interest of \$45.47.

Total expenses since January 1, 2024, were \$787.06. These included \$123.65 for the website hosting and domain fees, \$149.90 for 2023's Zoom account license, \$159.90 for 2024's Zoom account license, \$350.00 for the RVP registration fee to the 2024 AIS national convention, and \$3.61 in international bank fees related to the HostPapa account.

2024 Awards and Exhibition Report

Compiled by Kate Brewitt

Western New York Iris Society flower show held on June 1st

Best Specimen of Show - TB 'Capture A Little Sun' exhibited by David Baehre.

Magdalen Award (highest placed median iris) - MTB 'Redrock Princess' exhibited by Wendy Roller.

Mary Pat Engel Award (best pink iris) - TB 'Glitter Repink' exhibited by David Baehre.



TB 'Capture A Little Sun'
(Black, 2004)
© P. Black



MTB 'Redrock Princess'
(Witt, 2006)
© Aitken's Salmon Creek



TB 'Glitter Repink'
(Jedlicka, 2008)
© Elladan



© D. Baehre

Best Design of Show – Dave Baehre “The Wizard of Oz”
(pictured right).

Best Educational Exhibit – Marilee Farry

Best Perennial of Show - Yellow peony exhibited by Dave Baehre (pictured below).

AIS Silver Medal - David Baehre with 13 - 1st place ribbons.

AIS Bronze Medal - Wendy Roller with 11 - 1st place ribbons.

**CONGRATULATIONS TO
ALL THE AWARD
RECIPIENTS!**



© D. Baehre

2024 Awards and Exhibition Report – continued

Ontario Iris Society iris show held on June 2nd

ONIS Awards

Best Specimen (Queen of the Show) – R.D. Little Trophy - TB ‘Celebration Song’ exhibited by Terry Laurin.

Second Best Specimen (Princess of the Show) – Toronto Region Award - MTB ‘In My Veins’ – exhibited by Kate Brewitt,

Best Historic Iris - Verna Laurin Plaque - TB ‘Beverly Sills’ exhibited by Kate Brewitt

F.W. Caulfield Trophy - Highest total points in the Tall Bearded classes - Kate Brewitt.



TB ‘Celebration Song’
(Schreiner, 1993)
© k. brewitt



MTB ‘In My Veins’
(Bunnell, 2009)
© k. brewitt



TB ‘Beverly Sills’
(Hager, 1979)
© k. brewitt



AIS Awards

William McGarvey Beardless Iris Award - (Region 2 Award for Highest Placed Beardless Iris) - Siberian ‘Lucy Locket’ exhibited by Kate Brewitt. (*pictured left, © k. brewitt*)

AIS Silver Medal – Kate Brewitt with 5 – 1st place ribbons

AIS Bronze Medal – Terry Laurin with 1 – 1st place ribbons

CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL THE AWARD RECIPIENTS!

Membership Corner

Georgette Martin, Membership Chair



Welcome New Members to Region 2 of the American Iris Society

If you want to join a local affiliate, check the list on [page 2](#). Most affiliates have presentations and events such as flower shows and rhizome sales, to enhance any iris lover's experience!

M. Leader – Rochester, NY

B. Valicenti – Greenville, NY

R. Woodruff – Bainbridge, NY

The 2024 AIS Membership Drive Continues

This membership drive runs until December 31, 2024. Take advantage of it in one of two ways.

1. **If you are not an AIS member**, purchase a new full AIS membership and qualify for up to two free, one-year, youth print memberships.
2. **If you are already an AIS member**, upgrade to a full membership from a print or e-membership, and qualify for up to two free, one-year, youth print memberships.

(Youth membership is for gardeners aged 18 and younger.)

Check out the AIS Youth website, aisyouth.org, for more information about this group.

Join the American Iris Society

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 bulletin and online iris register database of registrations and introductions – Single/Dual - \$15 US.

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

The AIS website, [AIS Members – American Iris Society \(irises.org\)](http://irises.org) has a list of additional membership types. There is also a link that allows you to pay with PayPal.



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, 2024

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
-----------------	---------------	---------------

Apprentice Judges (completing requirements to become Garden/Exhibition Judge)

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	

* AIS Artistic Design Judge

**Currently enrolled in the AIS Artistic Design Judge Accreditation Program.

THE YEAR IN REVIEW

During the period August 1, 2023 – July 31, 2024, the Region 2 accredited judges and one candidate for judgeship collectively earned 15 hours of credit for attending or presenting in-garden and classroom judges' training sessions held within the region. The individuals also collectively earned 13 credit hours for attending AIS Zoom meeting classroom sessions which aired from the states of California and Texas.

Two judges training sessions were offered within Region 2 during the "Spring Regional Gathering in the Garden" event that was held on May 25th in David Baehre's beautiful garden located in Lancaster, New York.

1. AIS Master Judge Wendy Roller presented a 2-hour in-garden judges' training session on median irises.
2. AIS Master Judge Donna Lowry presented a 1-hour classroom judges' training session on "How to construct a floral artistic design for entry in an iris show."



Looking for Volunteers

Volunteers are fundamental to the success of our region. They are what makes the region 'tick'. During the last few years, the board of Region 2 of the American Iris Society has lost many key players. These positions need to be filled if the region is to continue.

Volunteering to fill a board position offers you the opportunity to meet new people. You could also put an existing skill to effective use or develop a new one. Additionally, you could find out more about the AIS organization that you joined, and more about irises and the people who grow and hybridize them.

If you want to see Region 2 continue and are interested in volunteering, below is a list of some of the positions available. Inquiries should be made with Cara Hutchings, our RVP (email address on [page 2](#)).

Archivist – Region 2 has an archive made up of newsletters, catalogues, slides, videos, and various other items. You would be responsible for organizing the archive as well as coordinating its storage. This would include determining which items are to be kept, discarded or released to the AIS Library for future management. It may also involve scanning items so they can be uploaded to the AIS Iris Encyclopedia (WIKI).

Awards and Exhibitions Chairperson – This individual shall oversee the rotation of the regional show awards plus arrange for the engraving of award trophies and/or the printing of award certificates for presentation at the fall annual general meeting. The chair also provides basic guidelines to any affiliate that is staging a show for the first time. Being an AIS Judge is helpful but not required.

Newsletter Editor – The editor is currently responsible for compiling and publishing twice yearly a 20 – 30-page newsletter and emailing it to our members. If you took this position you could continue to publish a newsletter or if you had ideas for connecting with Region 2 members in a different manner, the board would be willing to consider them!

Support and training for all positions will be provided by the Board of Directors.

Capital-Hudson Iris Society (CHIS)

The Capital-Hudson Iris Society is part of The Garden Alliance (Capital Area Garden Societies). They meet at the Cornell Cooperative Extension of Albany County, 24 Martin Road, Voorheesville, NY. Meetings are at 10 am unless noted otherwise and usually include a guest speaker and a “dish-to-pass” luncheon. All meetings are open free to the public. Why not join us and consider becoming a member.

CHIS President :
Kathryn Mohr - kemohrke@aol.com

Vice-President: Cindi Jones

Secretary: Michelle Young

Treasurer:
Don Salhoff - driris2000@hotmail.com



2024 CHIS Events

September 21 – ‘Ticks and Lyme Disease’ presented by Christina Winn, MPH. Public Health Educator, Albany County Department of Health.

October 19 – ‘Tips for Garden Design’ presented by Judith Fetterly.

November 16 – Meeting and presentation.

December 14 – End of season celebration. Contact one of the people listed above for details.

Some Fun Irises to Grow The ‘Sans Souci’ Family

By Kathryn Mohr, CHIS President (from ‘Shades of Green’ - July 2024)



*MTB ‘San Souci’
© K. Mohr*

The MTB iris ‘Sans Souci’ is a bit odd. It is a wonderful plant, easily grown and floriferous. However, the appearance of its red falls varies greatly with temperature and the amount of sun it receives. The falls can even appear to be velvety red.

There are several sports* of ‘Sans Souci’ with erratic expression of their red or yellow pigment. After a hard frost (28°F or -2°C) ‘Kaleidoscope’ and ‘Joseph’s Coat Katkamier’ may have blossoms that are identical to ‘Sans Souci’. On the next page are some of the sports* mentioned.

** For an explanation of the term ‘sport’, use this link to a page on the AIS WIKI, [‘Sports and Chimera’](#).*

The 'Sans Souci' Family – continued



MTB 'Kaleidoscope'
Sport of 'Sans Souci'
Erratic expression of red
pigment.
© K. Mohr



**MTB 'Joseph's Coat
Katkamier'**
Sport of 'Sans Souci'
Standards white/yellow, falls
white/yellow/purple/red.
Erratic expression of yellow
pigment.
© D. Langton



MTB 'Sherwin Wright'
Sport or seedling of
'Sans Souci'
Clear bright yellow, no
red pigment.
© D. McQueen



MTB 'Brown's Mutant'
Sport of 'Kaleidoscope'
White area around beard with lighter
lines down falls
© M. Abeyta.



MTB 'Sport Coat'
No yellow pigment present.
© K. Mohr



Stay connected with the Capital-Hudson Iris Society (CHIS):

On the Region 2 website: [CHIS \(aisregion2.org\)](http://CHIS(aisregion2.org))

Greater Rochester Iris Society (GRIS)

GRIS meets on the second Sunday of the month at St John's Episcopal Church, 11 Episcopal Avenue, Honeoye Falls, NY starting at 2:00 pm unless otherwise noted.

GRIS President:

Cara Hutchings - thehutchings@mac.com

Secretary/Treasurer:

Nate Hutchings - thehutchings@mac.com

Vice-President: Alex Solla



2024 GRIS Events

September 8 – Picnic and planning meeting for 2025.

October 13 – Presentation on the 2024 National Convention by Cara and Nathan Hutchings.

What We Did in 2024

The Greater Rochester Iris Society started out the year with a talk from Wendy Roller on median iris. It was very entertaining and informative.

In April, Alex and Leto Solla give a presentation on things to consider and techniques for working in the garden as you age or if you have physical challenges. The talk was an eye-opening experience.

On May 18th we went to Iris Country Gardens near Geneva, NY. It was a beautiful day, and the garden had many visitors. It is amazing the work that the sisters, Reba and Sara Martin, have accomplished in the past few years. They have a beautiful display garden, and hopefully in the next couple of years they will have some of the wonderful irises for sale. Their peony collection is amazing, and of course, we had to have one! After having a relaxing lunch in the garden, we headed home which, of course, included a stop for ice cream!



Iris Country Gardens in Geneva, NY - © C. Hutchings

GRIS Report – continued

In June GRIS attended the Master Gardeners of Munroe County's Plant Expo and Sale. Pictured below are (left to right) Maureen Dunphey, Nathan Hutchings and Wendy Roller working GRIS' booth.



© C. Hutchings

In August we held our iris rhizome sale. We had brought in some irises from Mid-America Garden plus members divided irises from their own gardens. Almost all the Mid-America irises sold, as well as many of those dug from our gardens. The day was a success, selling irises, making new friends, and connecting with fellow iris lovers.

Our meeting in September will be a picnic and planning meeting. We will get a head start on organizing 2025's events and programs.

October will be our final meeting for 2024. There will be a presentation by Cara and Nathan Hutchings about the 2024 AIS national convention they attended in June. There were some beautiful Japanese irises at the convention, and of course we had to have some! Some information about growing Japanese may be shared.



Stay connected with the Greater Rochester Iris Society (GRIS):

On the Region 2 website: [GRIS \(aisregion2.org\)](https://aisregion2.org)

Facebook: [Greater Rochester NY Irises | Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/GreaterRochesterNYIrises)

Ontario Iris Society (ONIS)

ONIS events are held at the Toronto Botanical Garden (TBG), 777 Lawrence Avenue East, Toronto, ON unless otherwise noted.

ONIS President: Terry Laurin – tlaurin@rogers.com **Secretary:** Kate Brewitt – kbrewitt@rogers.com

Vice-Pres.: Jinny Missons - jojimis@sympatico.com **Treasurer:**
Lyn Hickey - lynhickey94@gmail.com



2024 ONIS Events

November – Annual meeting to review events of 2024 and plan for 2025. Contact Kate if you are interested in attending.

What We Did in 2024

Our season started in March with a Seedy Saturday at the Evergreen Brick Works in Toronto, a new venue for us. This historic site was transformed from the former Don Valley Brick Works and quarry into a public space. In the 1800's bricks made here were used to build Toronto's homes. Every Saturday there is a farmer's market at the Brick Works so there were lots of people in shopping mode. With the location being in downtown Toronto,



© k. brewitt

many who dropped by our booth were apartment or condominium dwellers, interested in learning how to garden in pots on their balconies. It was a learning day for everyone and being surrounded by Toronto's history made it extra special.

Later in March we attended another Seedy Saturday at the Innisfil IdeaLAB and Library in Innisfil which is north of Toronto. This was another successful day selling potted irises and memberships.

In June we had our first iris show in five years. When we had our last show in 2019 our irises were blooming 10 days behind a regular season. This year they were

ONIS Report– continued

blooming 10 days ahead of a regular season. As a result we were able to display irises that are not generally available for an early June show. Our youth members joined us and helped welcome visitors, making it a highly successful day. Read about the award recipients on page 10.

Right – People’s Choice winner ‘Hook’ (Johnson, 2001). Visitors to our show voted this iris as their favourite. ‘No Place like Home’ and ‘Pinball Wizard’ photobombing the picture!

During the summer we had an online rhizome sale as well as our usually in-person auction and sale at the Toronto Botanical Garden. It was our best online sale since its inception in 2020 while our in-person auction/sale saw many of our ‘regulars’ return to exercise their bidding arms after a long hiatus...and bidding was fierce on the 2023 and 2024 iris introductions brought in from Mid-America Garden.

Our year will close with our annual meeting in November.



© k.brewitt



ONIS Youth Member Receives Third Prize in 2024 AIS Youth Drawing Contest.

Abbie M., AIS youth member and member of the Ontario Iris Society, submitted this colourful drawing to the AIS Youth Colouring Contest in the 13 to 15 years category. For her efforts she placed third.

Congratulations, Abbie!



Stay connected with the Ontario Iris Society (ONIS):

On the Region 2 website: [ONIS \(aisregion2.org\)](https://aisregion2.org)

ONIS website: [Ontario Iris Society \(google.com\)](https://ontarioirisociety.com)

Facebook: [Ontario Iris Society | Facebook.](https://facebook.com/ontarioirisociety)

Western New York Iris Society (WNYIS)

WNYIS meets the first Sunday of the month at the Julia Boyers Reinstein Library, 1030 Losson Road South, Cheektowaga, NY starting at 1:30 pm unless otherwise noted.

WNYIS President:

Ida Blasak - iblasak71113@gmail.com

Secretary:

Chris Krzal – cjktoybay@yahoo.com

Vice President:

Annette Kuhn – akuhn43@yahoo.com

Treasurer:

Marilee Farry – farmare@aol.com



2024 WNYIS Events

October 6 – Business meeting and iris show awards presentation.

November 3 – Presentation: 'Introduction to Beardless Iris'. Design Demonstration: Mass Design.

December/January – Winter Break – No meetings.

WNYIS Flower Show

The WNYIS flower show was held at the Julia Boyer Reinstein Library on June 1st. It was a wonderful show even though Western New York had experienced many days with high temperatures resulting in much of the iris bloom well beyond the usual bloom for the area.



WNYIS Show at Julia Boyer Reinstein Library

© D. Baehre

WNYIS Report – continued



Apart from the single stalk entries, many participated in the design categories. This year's categories were to represent certain TV programs/movies. One category was the 'Wizard of Oz' which was a floor design that had to be at least 36' in height. Pictured left is a free-standing design by Annette Kuhn which far exceeded the minimum height requirement.

To the right is another exhibit from the "Wizard of Oz" category created by Dave Baehre. The height of this floor design, from the floor to the top, was 43". His entry showcased the "tornado" and was designed to rotate on a 360 degrees axis. He included all the "Wizard of Oz" characters...and Toto, too!



Another design category was "Sayonara". Two entries, created by Joanne Bassett (*below left*) and Annette Kuhn (*below center*) use the three-pointed nature of the Ikebana Seika style representing heaven (*ten*), earth (*chi*), and man (*jin*).



All photos on this page © D. Baehre

The beautiful yellow iris floral design entry (*above right*) was created by Marilee Farry. The design category "Yellowstone" was surely interpreted to its fullest.

WNYIS Report – continued



© D. Baehre

Flowers were not the only 'award' recipients that day. Wendy Roller and Donna Lowery were both presented with a spear head spade as a thank you for their continued service and endless friendship to the WNYIS members. These ladies have presented programs and given advice to our members for many years and have helped to judge our shows for more than 20 years. WNYIS appreciates the effort they put into the planning and presentation of their informative programs.

Overall, we had a great show!

Pictured left, Annette, holding the green handled spade, having already presented Wendy with the yellow handled spade.



Stay connected with the Western New York Iris Society (WNYIS):

On the Region 2 website: [WNYIS \(aisregion2.org\)](http://aisregion2.org)

WNYIS website: [HOME | Wnyiris](#)

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



REGION 2 OF THE AMERICAN IRIS SOCIETY MINUTES FOR THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

October 11, 2023, at 7:00 pm via Zoom

1. Call to order

Meeting called to order at 7:02 pm with Cara Hutchings, RVP, presiding.

2. Attendance

Cara Hutchings - Regional Vice President (RVP), Greater Rochester Society (GRIS) President, and Acting Membership Chair

Kathryn Mohr - Assistant RVP and Capital Hudson Iris Society (CHIS) Acting President

Ben Morris – Secretary

Terry Laurin - Ontario Iris Society (ONIS) President

Wendy Roller – Judges’ Training Chair

Kate Brewitt - Newsletter Editor & Webmaster

Additional Attendee(s) - Joanne Bassett (WNYIS)

Absent - Ida Blasak - Western New York Iris Society (WNYIS) President, Neil Houghton – Technology Consultant, Annette Kuhn – Treasurer.

3. Additions/Corrections to the minutes of the August 9, 2023, and September 13, 2023, Board meetings.

Cara Hutchings, RVP, declared the August minutes approved as circulated and the September minutes approved as corrected.

4. Officer Reports

RVP Report – Cara Hutchings agrees to remain RVP for 2024 and anticipates attending the 2024 AIS National Convention.

Treasurer – Ben Morris presented in Annette Kuhn’s absence.

As of September 30, 2023 there was \$8,186.63 in unencumbered funds in the checking account and \$1,022.80 in a US Treasury I-bond. Total assets equal \$9,209.43, compared with a total of \$9,337.59 at the end of 2022.

Finance Committee - Audit of region’s financial records will be done for the annual meeting.

Secretary Report - Motions since 2022 general meeting

At the November 30, 2022 meeting the board carried a motion to amend the wording of each Region 2 award to include: “any recipient may opt to receive a certificate in lieu of the award”.

At the January 11, 2023 meeting the board carried a motion to invest \$1,000.00 of Region 2 funds in an I-bond: to be reviewed in one year to consider continuation.

At the April 19, 2023 meeting the board carried a motion to send a \$100 donation to the 2023 AIS National Convention organizing host, Iris Society of Dallas.

Clarification on who should submit committee reports at the general meeting was requested. It

Minutes – October 11, 2023 – continued

was confirmed that the minutes of September 13, 2023 stated only affiliate presidents were exempt from providing a report at the general meeting if there had been no changes since the fall newsletter. It was requested that board and committee reporting obligations be clearly outlined in a document for future reference.

5. Committee Reports

Archives – Ben Morris presented in Dorothy Stiefel's absence.

The archive is now located in Ben's residence. The contents of each box have been cataloged.

Awards & Exhibitions – Cara Hutchings (Acting Committee Chair)

The issue of when (and how) to present the physical awards at a Zoom meeting was raised. It was decided awards would be presented at the general meeting. It was also clarified that the motion regarding the issuance of certificates in lieu of awards applied to Region 2 awards only, not to AIS medals. Kathryn agreed to change the wording in all Region 2 award descriptions to include the option of selecting a certificate in lieu of an award; Kathryn will do this prior to stepping down from this position.

An inquiry about the continued funding of the Wirz-Rettig Japanese Iris award was made. It was decided to table this item until the November board meeting.

Judges' Training – Wendy Roller, Committee Chair

Wendy confirmed there would be no changes to the judging status of any Region 2 judge, and all would be approved for 2024.

It was confirmed that the following judges will be considered for certification as Artistic Design Judges as of 2024, David Baehre, Joanne Bassett, Marilee Farry, Maria Gerbracht, and Donna Lowry. Annette Kuhn will be eligible for certification once she finishes her Apprentice Judge requirements.

Membership – Cara Hutchings, Acting Committee Chair

As of October 1, Region 2 has 86 members, a decrease of 38 members (49 non-renewals and 11 new members) since the 2022 general meeting. Thirty-six people took advantage of the 2022 membership drive with six renewing.

Newsletter – Kate Brewitt, Editor

Two newsletters were published in 2023. Each edition is archived in the Ben R. Hager-Sidney DuBose Memorial Iris Library, part of the AIS Iris Encyclopedia (WIKI). Kate has also uploaded to the WIKI all affiliate newsletters she has in her possession.

Technology Consultant – Cara Hutchings presented in Neil Houghton's absence.

Neil is stepping down as committee chair however will remain available for consultation.

Webmaster – Kate Brewitt

Hosting fees for 2023 will total \$190.19. Monthly site visits averaged 1936 unique visits per month. CHIS affiliate page returned as the top viewed page with the newsletter page coming in second. June, July, and August were the most active months.

Minutes – October 11, 2023 – continued

Affiliate Updates

CHIS – Kathryn Mohr – Acting President

Positive feedback was received to a suggested exhibit in conjunction with the Hosta Society in 2024. The idea of sharing officers between the iris, daylily, and hosta societies for 2024 is under consideration.

GRIS – Cara Hutchings – President

At the October 8, 2023 GRIS meeting, Neil Houghton announced he is stepping down as GRIS vice president. Alex Solla will assume the role with Cara Hutchings continuing as president and Nathan Hutchings as secretary and treasurer.

ONIS – Kate Brewitt - Secretary

ONIS will hold its annual meeting on Sunday, October 22, 2023. Events of 2023 will be reviewed, and plans will be made for 2024 events.

WNYIS – Joanne Bassett presented in Ida Blasak's absence.

At the October 8, 2023 WNYIS meeting a calendar of WNYIS events/meetings etc. through June 2024 was provided.

Nominating Committee – Kathryn Mohr, Committee Chair

The following slate of officers was presented,

Cara Hutchings as Regional Vice President, Annette Kuhn as Treasurer, and Ben Morris as Secretary. No candidate was found to fill the position of Assistant Region Vice President (ARVP). After discussing the ramifications this may present, the board agreed this position would remain open for 2024 unless a candidate can be found.

Motion made by Kate to accept the 2024 slate of officers as presented by the nominations committee. Motion carried.

6. Unfinished Business

It was suggested the Region 2 bylaws be updated to include policies for Zoom meetings. This will be a future board meeting agenda item.

7. New Business

2024 Budget – Kate Brewitt presented in Annette Kuhn's absence.

Two changes were made to the 2024 budget; the archive allowance is increased to \$900.00, and the treasurer's allowance is reduced to \$10.00. The 2024 budget is revised to \$3,015.00.

Motion made by Wendy to accept the budget as submitted for full consideration at the general meeting. Motion carried.

2024 Region 2 Awards Rotation & Show Dates

GRIS – Selected the Ruth V. Blenis Award (Tall Bearded iris). Tentative date, June 2, 2024. Uncertain if there will be a show or an exhibition.

WNYIS – Tentatively selected the Magdalen Award (Median iris). Date of show will be June 1, 2024. To be confirmed by WNYIS President.

Minutes – October 11, 2023 – continued

ONIS – Selected the William McGarvey Beardless Iris Award. Possible show dates are June 2 or 9, 2024.

CHIS – Passed on award selection as no official show anticipated in 2024. May have an exhibition.

9. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 8:29 pm.



REGION 2 OF THE AMERICAN IRIS SOCIETY MINUTES FOR THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

October 28, 2023, at 11:00 am via Zoom

1. Call to order

Meeting called to order at 11:00 am with Cara Hutchings, RVP, presiding.

2. Attendance

Cara Hutchings - Regional Vice President (RVP), Greater Rochester Society (GRIS) President, and Acting Membership Chair

Kathryn Mohr – Assistant RVP, and Capital Hudson Iris Society (CHIS) Acting President

Ben Morris - Secretary

Terry Laurin - Ontario Iris Society (ONIS) President

Wendy Roller – Judges' Training Chair

Kate Brewitt - Newsletter Editor & Webmaster

Additional Attendee(s): Joanne Bassett (WNYIS), Chuck Chapman - Iris Hybridizer

Absent: Ida Blasak - Western NY Iris Society (WNYIS) President, Annette Kuhn – Treasurer

3. Officer Reports

There were no report updates from the October 11, 2023, Board of Directors meeting.

4. Committee Reports

Finance Committee - Terry Laurin, Finance Committee Chair, reported that the finance committee had accepted the treasurer's audit report.

There were no other committee report updates from October 11, 2023, Board of Directors meeting.

5. Unfinished Business

None

Minutes – October 28, 2023 – continued

6. New Business

2024 Budget

All budget line-item amounts were kept equal to the approved 2023 budget with the exceptions of Archive and treasurer allowances; \$900.00 has been added for archive; \$14.00 has been removed from the treasurer's budget. The 2024 AIS Spring National Convention registration was verified to be \$350.00. The 2024 budget will be \$3,015.00.

Motion was made by Terry to accept the 2024 Budget as presented. Motion carried.

Election of Officers:

The following slate of officer was presented by Kathryn Mohr, Nominations Committee Chair. Regional Vice President: Cara Hutchings, Treasurer: Annette Kuhn, Secretary: Ben Morris.

No candidate was found to fill the position of Assistant Regional Vice President so this position will remain open for 2024 unless a candidate can be found.

Motion was made by Kathryn to accept the 2024 slate of officers. Motion carried.

Additional Discussions

There will be a meeting on November 8, 2023 during which Cara will appoint committee chairs. Cara made the following appointments in advance of this meeting: Technology Consultant - James Morris; Webmaster - Kate Brewitt; Judges' Training Chair - Wendy Roller.

There was discussion about the sharing of a glass slide recently scanned to a jpg. It was confirmed scanned slides can be shared. General discussion about the slides and potential future needs to digitalize items followed.

Cara shared that a presentation she gave at a local (Rochester, NY area) hosta group was well received and thanked Wendy for attending and for her assistance.

Kathryn shared an informal report on CHIS noting that the group is moving towards a united group (iris, hosta, and daylily) with Kathryn as co-chair and will suggest some of the other officers be named as CHIS officers with CHIS paying their AIS membership.

Chuck Chapman, hybridizer, lead a discussion on his theories on reblooming irises.

7. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 11:56 am.

MDB 'Stripling' (M. Smith, 2004)

© k. brewitt





Remember...
Big Sky Iris Club
is hosting the
2025 American Iris Society National
Convention
Billings, Montana - June 2 - 7, 2025

Watch the convention website for details about the 2025 AIS National Convention in Billings, Montana. [2025 AIS Convention – Big Sky Iris Club](#). Registration is now open. The convention hotel is the Billings Hotel and Convention Center in Billings, Montana.

AIS Online

You can find the American Iris Society Online

American Iris Society Website: [American Iris Society \(irises.org\)](http://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 \(theamericanirissociety.blogspot.com\)](http://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 emailed to all members of the American Iris Society residing in Region 2 (New York State, Ontario, and Quebec). Members without email may receive a paper copy by mail upon request. It is the member's responsibility to advise of email 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. (Please note, submissions may be edited for style and clarity.)

COPY DEADLINES

Spring Issue February 1 Fall Issue August 1

Editor: Kate Brewitt – just1moreiris@gmail.com