

Region 2 of the American Iris Society

NEWSLETTER

New York - Ontario - Quebec

SPRING 2024

IN THIS EDITION



Siberian 'Swans In Flight' (Hollingworth, 2006)

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WHO WE ARE	2
RVP MESSAGE	3
FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK	4
SPRING REGIONAL IN THE GARDEN ...	5
A YEAR IN REVIEW - 2023	9
MEET OUR NEW MEMBERSHIP CHAIRPERSON	10
MEMBERSHIP CORNER	11
2023 AIS MEMBERSHIP DRIVE	11
TREASURER'S REPORT	12
2023 AIS TALL BEARDED SYMPOSIUM..	12
LOOKING FOR VOLUNTEERS	15
CAPITAL-HUDSON IRIS SOCIETY	16
GREATER ROCHESTER IRIS SOCIETY..	17
ONTARIO IRIS SOCIETY	18
WESTERN NEW YORK IRIS SOCIETY	19
WESTERN NEW YORK IRIS SOCIETY PHOTO CONTEST.....	20
JUDGES' TRAINING REPORT	22
AIS REGION 2 ONLINE	23

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

Secretary

Benjamin Morris - Secretary@aisregion2.org

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

Benjamin Morris (See Secretary)

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)

Technology Consultant

James Morris – thistledown.ny@gmail.com



'Mount Royal'
(F. Cleveland Morgan, 1929)
© R. Tasco

RVP Message

Cara Hutchings, AIS Region 2 RVP



Before I started this message, I browsed through the Region 2 website (aisregion2.org). Even though I go to the website often, it is usually for a specific purpose. This time I browsed; looking at all the past winners of various awards, searching for what each affiliate is doing this coming year, and checking out some of the requirements for becoming an AIS judge. The website is full of useful information; it's not just about growing iris, but about the people who keep this organization and the affiliates going.

I have made some great friends through AIS and Region 2, many of those friendships I have come to treasure. I have two new friends to add to the list - Ida Blasak, the new affiliate chair of WNYIS, and Georgette Martin, our new membership chair. I have also been emailing a new member, Bob Gang. He joined the Tall Bearded Iris Society in addition to AIS and is very much looking forward to visiting Iris Country Gardens in Geneva, NY. I look forward to possibly meeting Bob in person. He has sent me some pictures of his garden, and it is gorgeous!

I will be going to the AIS National Convention this year, for the first time. I am excited to meet the people I have seen only through zoom meetings plus those I have read about in the pages of the AIS Bulletin. I also hope to meet up with some of the people I have already met such as Chad Harris (co-chair of the convention) who came to our regional meeting about seven years ago. We had a great conversation about some of the best barbeque restaurants in Rochester. And to think this all started when I volunteered to be the Greater Rochester Iris Society (GRIS) assistant affiliate chair almost 14 years ago. It is amazing what can happen when you volunteer. I would recommend it to anyone. It can provide a great sense of accomplishment and camaraderie. So, take a few minutes and think of what you can do to help your affiliate, If you are not part of an affiliate, form a new one! We will help by providing all the information and support needed.

I hope to hear from you soon!

Cara Hutchings

Region 2 Monthly Zoom Meetings



AIS Region 2 has monthly zoom board meetings scheduled for the second Wednesday of every month. **Start time is 7:00 PM ET.**

All members are encouraged to attend. Pre-registration invitations are emailed in advance of the meeting.

Our next meeting is March 13, 2024

From the Editor's Desk



I recently finished reading the time-honored tale of 'The Wind in the Willows'. While immersed in the adventures of Rat, Mole, Toad, and old Badger I came upon this illustration of Rat and Mole amongst some irises. It made me long for spring. This, in turn, caused me to reflect on the current winter and I thought, what happened to it? In our part of the region we didn't see a healthy covering of snow until January, at which point we had a couple of weeks of what I would call 'real winter'...you know, those bitterly cold days when a mug of hot chocolate can ease the chill in your bones. As the polar vortex

shifted, it was back to above seasonal temperatures...and the incredible shrinking snow cover. I always worry about my irises during this type of winter. However, I should know that, for the most part, they will be fine. Maybe a bit of soft rot and some heaved rhizomes but I figure this is Mother Nature's way of keeping our gardens ever evolving as we replace 'lost' irises with new.

But getting back to spring...it has been a long time since Region 2 has had a spring regional event. Not only does the warmer weather and longer days make a spring gathering appealing, but the irises are in bloom, allowing for in-garden JT sessions. The Western New York Iris Society came up with the idea and has agreed to be our host. The details of 'Spring Regional in the Garden' start on page 5.

The results of the 2023 AIS Tall Bearded symposium appeared in the winter edition of the AIS bulletin, *Iris*. Once again, we have compared them against the Region 2 results to provide our members with an idea of what may perform in their gardens. The report starts on page 12.

The AIS has a new membership drive for 2024. It is designed to encourage more youth to get involved in the organization...after all, they are our future! Details are on page 11.

So, sit back and relax while you can. Spring is just around the corner which means we'll be out in the garden soon...and with the year's weather, that may be sooner than you think!

Until next time,

Kate (just1moreiris@gmail.com)

Errata from Autumn 2023 edition:

Apologies to AIS medal winners at the 2023 WNYIS flower show. The medals were awarded as follows,
AIS Silver Medal: David Baehre (8 first place ribbons) (not Joanne Bassett)
AIS Bronze Medal: Joanne Bassett (5 first place ribbons) (not Joseph Babulski)
Congratulations to all!

Picture above: Rat and Mole among the irises, from 'The Wind in the Willows' by Kenneth Grahame, illustrated by Michael Hague, 1980.

“Spring Regional in the Garden”

Region 2 Spring Gathering, May 25, 2024

Hosted by the Western New York Iris Society

Held at Dave Baehre's garden

5755 Genesee St. Lancaster, NY 14086



Dave Baehre's garden. The house was built in 1814.

Mark your calendars and join fellow Region 2 friends for a day of fun and friendship. There will be two judges' training sessions, however everyone is welcome to join these sessions to learn about the attributes of a good garden iris and the principles and elements of floral design.

In the morning Wendy Roller will have a two-hour in-garden training session on median irises. We will walk through Dave's irises, discussing the iris plants: vigor, stalk, branching, substance, durability, bud count, and form. Judges who complete the test will be credited with two hours of in-garden training. Since a portion of this session will take place outdoors, rain or shine, watch your local news and come dressed for the weather!

In the afternoon Donna Lowry will host a one-hour session on artistic design. There will be an example of a flower show design class with an actual design created for that class. Donna will go over the point score sheet, explaining what a judge looks for in a design. She will also discuss how to evaluate the design entry. Judges who complete the test will be credited with one hour of classroom training.



Current AIS accredited judges and apprentice judges should bring their AIS judges handbook, edition 8.22, for reference. The JT handbook is available online through the AIS Iris Encyclopedia (a.k.a. the WIKI). If you prefer to print only the pages needed for the day, chapters 8 through 11 cover the median iris categories while chapter 27 covers artistic design.

[Info2022AISJudgesHandbook](https://www.irises.org/Info2022AISJudgesHandbook) < Hist < Iris Wiki (irises.org)

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

9:30 am – 10:00 am	Registration with coffee and muffins.
8:30 am – 10:00 am	Setup Silent Auction. Items donated by hybridizers Dana and Sylvia Borglum will be auctioned off. See page 8 for pictures of some of the items.
10:00 am – 12:30 pm	Silent Auction bidding.
10:00 am – 12:00 noon	Judges' Training session. Wendy Roller will provide in-garden training on median irises.
12:00 pm - 1:00 pm	Lunch will be provided by "Gianni Mazia's on Main" which features antipasto, lasagna, wraps and calzones. Beverages will be provided. WNYIS members will supply homemade desserts.
After lunch	Auction closes. Collect your winning bids and pay the treasurer.
2:30 pm - 3:30 pm	Judges Training session. Donna Lowry will provide classroom training on artistic design.
3:30 pm	Cleanup – if you can stay to help, it would be appreciated.

REGISTRATION FORM: "Spring Regional in the Garden" - May 25, 2024

Hosted by Western New York Iris Society (WNYIS)

Held in Dave Baehre's garden - 5755 Genesee St. Lancaster, NY 14086

To Register: Mail completed registration form (below), with your check made payable to Western NY Iris Society, to: Marilee Farry, 103 Towers Blvd. Cheektowaga, NY 14227.

Confirmation will be sent by email. Please make a copy of this form for your records.

Questions: Please email Marilee at farmare@aol.com.

For our Canadian members, you may email the registration form to Marilee and pay at the door.

Note: Outdoor seating is limited. If you can bring a lawn chair or two, it would be appreciated.

Registration - \$10 US per person – Return registration (before May 11, 2024)

(please print clearly)

Full Name: _____

Name to appear on your name tag: _____

Affiliate Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State/Prov: _____ Zip/Postal Code: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____


I will be attending the Saturday morning in-garden judges' training - 'Judging of Median Irises' (2 hrs)

I will be attending the Saturday afternoon judges' training - 'Judging Floral Designs' (1 hr)


Lunch will be provided. Please specify any dietary requests:

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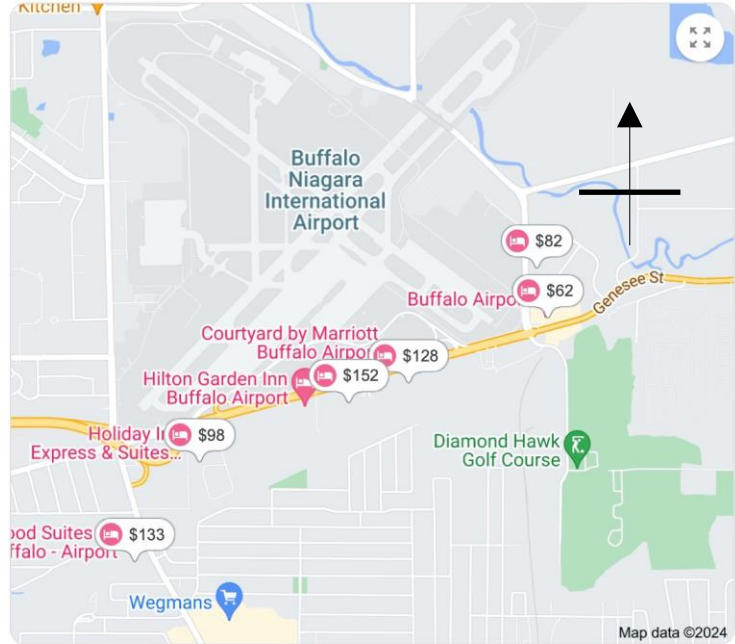
Buffalo Airport Hotel
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 Buffalo Niagara International Airport · 0.8 mi
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Holiday Inn Express & Suites Buffalo-Airport, an IHG Hotel
 4.2 ★★★★★ (697) · 2-star hotel
 Buffalo Niagara International Airport · 1 mi
DEAL 21% less than usual

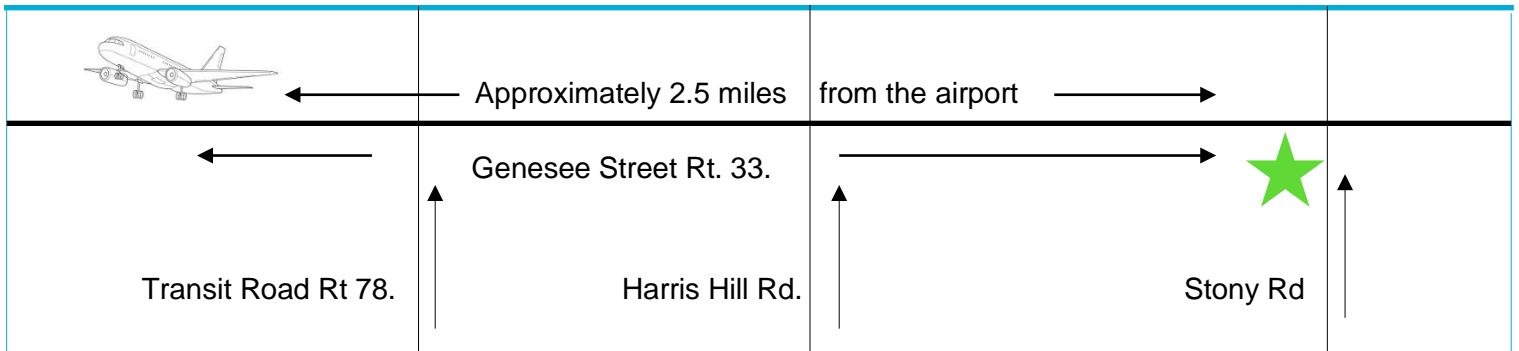


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 Buffalo Niagara International Airport · 0.7 mi
 Informal hotel with free airport shuttle



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★ **Dave Baehre 5755 Genesee Street, Lancaster, NY 14086. 716-684-5221**

Additional area hotels within 2.5 miles of Buffalo / Niagara International Airport

- Fairfield Inn & Suites by Marriott** - 4271 Genesee St, Cheektowaga, NY (716) 633-2488
- M Hotel Buffalo** - 2040 Walden Ave, Buffalo, NY 1422 (888) 216-8559
- Home 2 Suites by Hilton Williamsville** - 48 Freeman Rd Building A, Buffalo, (716) 633-8900
- Comfort Inn & Suites** - 4345 Genesee Street, Buffalo, NY, 14225 (716) 631-0800
- Sleep Inn and Suites** - 100 Holtz Dr., Cheektowaga, NY, (716) 626-4000
- Hilton Garden Inn** - 4201 Genesee Street Cheektowaga, New York 716-565-0040
- Courtyard Buffalo Airport** - 4243 Genesee Cheektowaga, NY. (716) 633-2700
- Aloft Buffalo Airport** - 4219 Genesee St, Buffalo, NY (716) 626-1800
- Residence Inn by Marriott Buffalo Galleria Mall** - 107 Anderson Rd, Buffalo, NY (716) 892-5410



Some of the items in the Silent Auction
at 'Spring Regional in the Garden'.

Grab your pens, sharpen your pencils, and bring 'em along!



Region 2 of the American Iris Society

A Year in Review - 2023

During 2023 the board of directors and committee chairpersons were busy running Region 2. The following is a list of their accomplishments plus changes to the board.

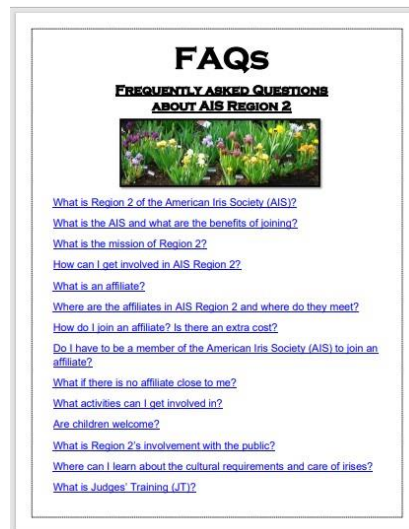
The board agreed that when it came to the Region 2 awards, any recipient may opt to receive a paper certificate in lieu of the trophy associated with the award.

Region 2 made a financial donation in support of the 2023 AIS National Convention held in Grapevine, Texas.

Kathryn Mohr assumed the role of acting affiliate chairperson when Linda Knipper stepped down after approximately 30 years in this leadership position. As Linda says, “Was a longgggggg time.”

The Region 2 welcome letter was revised when the membership handbook was retired. The reference on the cover to a 50-year-old Woody Allen movie made it seem like a good idea!

A FAQ sheet was developed for the Region 2 website hoping to provide users with a ‘one-stop-shop’ for their questions.



WNYIS elected a new affiliate chair, Ida Blasak, after Marilee Farry stepped down after four years in this leadership position.

A selection of newsletters published by Region 2 affiliates, past and present, were uploaded to the AIS Iris Encyclopedia’s Ben R Hager-Sidney P DuBose Memorial Online Iris Library, [PublicationsOfLocalAffiliates < Hist < Iris Wiki \(irises.org\)](#).



At our fall general meeting, a presentation was given by Bob Pries, Iris Encyclopedia Manager. If you were unable to join us, here’s a link to the AIS YouTube page [Webinar #36 “A Romp Through the Iris Family” by Bob Pries - YouTube](#). As a thank-you, Region 2 donated to the AIS Encyclopedia (WIKI) fund.

The results of the election at the fall general meeting saw Cara Hutchings return for a second year as RVP while Benjamin Morris and Annette Kuhn will continue in their positions as Secretary and Treasurer, respectively.

Benjamin Morris was appointed archive chairperson when Dorothy Stiefel stepped down after 26 years in this position. The Region 2 archive is now in his possession.

Kate Brewitt was appointed bylaw chairperson. She will also continue as editor and webmaster.

Wendy Roller will continue as Region 2's Judges' Training chairperson.

James Morris was appointed Technology Consultant when Neil Houghton stepped down.

Georgette Martin was appointed as our new Membership chairperson. Cara Hutchings had been filling in since August 2023 when Marilee Farry stepped down.

Finally, Region 2 welcomed 15 new AIS members in 2023!



Meet the New AIS Region 2 Membership Chair Georgette Martin!

Georgette Martin is our new membership chairperson. She has kindly shared her past experiences with the region as an introduction.

Hello to all Region 2 members. As your new membership chair, I would like to tell you a little about myself.

Previously I was vice-president for the Hudson Valley Iris and Daylily Society (HVIDS) which was an affiliate of Region 2 of the American Iris Society. We organized open gardens, shows, sales and brought in presenters to give talks on different garden-related topics. I proudly held this position for approximately ten years. Sadly, in 2018 with membership dwindling, HVIDS disbanded when the society was unable to recruit enough volunteers to do the work necessary for the group to operate.

Last year, Kathryn Mohr asked if I would be interested in filling an open position within Region 2. I had met Kathryn many years ago when she would come to our HVIDS events. When Kathryn asked me to chair the membership committee I thought, if taking on the responsibility of membership chair will help those already doing the work to keep Region 2 functioning, then my answer is a resounding 'YES!'

We all enjoy the benefits of membership; however, it takes a team to keep a society thriving. As a member of AIS Region 2, I highly recommend you get involved; try helping the board or a committee by taking on a job you are qualified to do or one you want to learn how to do. You could also learn about the running of the organization. Let's keep AIS Region 2 thriving. A few volunteers can do a lot of work, or a lot of volunteers can do a little work! The choice is yours!



*"One of my favorites"
'Ruby Eruption' (Chapman, 1996)
2006 Cook Douglas Medal recipient.
Photo @ G. Martin*

Membership Corner

Georgette Martin, Membership Chair



Welcome New Members to Region 2 of the American Iris Society

R. Gang – Cicero, NY	L. Gerry – Watkins Glen, NY
C. Jones – Galway, NY	G. Martin – Poughkeepsie, NY
J. Morris – Otego, NY	M. Young – Slingerlands, NY

Announcing the 2024 AIS Membership Drive

The 2024 membership drive will run from March 1 to December 31, 2024. There are two ways to take advantage of their offer.

1. If you are not an AIS member, purchase a new full AIS membership and you will 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 you will qualify for up to two free, one-year, youth print memberships.

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

What a great gift for the 'budding' gardener or iris lover in your family! 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.





Treasurer's Report

Submitted by Annette Kuhn, Treasurer

As of December 31, 2023, Region 2 of the American Society Iris Society had \$8,086.44 in unencumbered funds in its checking account and an I-Bond totaling \$1,047.60 including accumulated interest. Total assets at the end of 2023 were \$9,134.04 compared with a total of \$9,337.59 at the end of 2022.

Total revenue received in 2023 was \$473.39. This included \$350 in affiliate contributions, \$47.60 in I-Bond interest, a \$50 donation, and \$25.79 from Amazon Smile.

Total expenses for 2023 were \$1,676.94. This included \$1,000 for I-Bond purchase, \$200 donation to the AIS Encyclopedia (WIKI) fund in appreciation of the speaker at our 2023 fall annual meeting, \$100 donation to the Iris Society of Dallas for the 2023 National Convention, \$190.19 for web hosting and domain fees, \$149.90 for a zoom license, \$22.50 for an award trophy, \$4.35 for judges' training, and a \$10 bank charge.

Information was submitted to the AIS for the annual IRS filing.



2023 AIS Tall Bearded Iris Symposium

(American Iris Society Results vs Region 2 Best Performers)

Every year the TB irises that are selected by Region 2 participants are ranked and compared against their ranking in the national results as published in the winter AIS Bulletin. Many of us have learned that not all irises perform the same in different parts of the continent so this comparison can help reduce some of the guesswork when selecting irises for your garden. That is why it is important that everyone in the region completes the AIS TB Symposium. The more representation we have from our region, the more relevant the results.

Did you know the symposium is to open to all AIS members and non-members alike?

Share the symposium with your friends and family who may also grow irises. Additional copies are available on the AIS website, [Awards & Symposiums – American Iris Society \(irises.org\)](#).

The Region 2 results show that we continue to select award winners. 'Immortality' is still in the running plus other familiar names; 'Superstition', 'Sharp Dressed Man', and Thornbird, to name a few. More information on these irises can be found on the AIS WIKI: [WebHome < Main < Iris Wiki \(irises.org\)](#). *(cont'd on next page)*

Tall Bearded Iris Ranking First in Region 2 Results

(The AIS ranking is indicated in brackets.)

'Gypsy Lord' (Keppel, 2006)
(American Dykes Memorial Medal 2015)
(AIS 2023 Ranking - 13)



Tall Bearded Irises Ranking Second in Region 2 Results

(The AIS ranking is indicated in brackets.)

'Champagne Elegance' (Niswonger, 1987)
(Award of Merit 1991)
(AIS 2023 Ranking - 34)



'Daughter Of Stars' (Spoon, 2001)
(Wister Medal 2007)
(AIS 2023 Ranking - 1)



'Sharp Dressed Man' (Johnson, 2010)
(Wister Medal 2016)
(AIS 2023 Ranking - 4)



'Thornbird' (Byers, 1989)
(American Dykes Medal 1997)
(AIS 2023 Ranking - 2)



Tall Bearded Irises Ranking Third in Region 2 Results

(The AIS ranking is indicated in brackets.)

'Clarence' (Zurbrigg, 1991)
(Wister Medal 2000)
(AIS 2023 Ranking - 23)



'Stairway To Heaven' (Lauer, 1993)
(American Dykes Medal 2000)
(AIS 2023 Ranking - 7)



Tall Bearded irises Ranking Fourth in the Region 2 Results.

(The AIS ranking is indicated in brackets.)

'Beverly Sills'
(American Dykes Medal 1985)
(AIS 2023 Ranking - 24)



'Florentine Silk'
(American Dykes Medal 2012)
(AIS 2023 Ranking - 7)



'Hollywood Night'
(Wister Medal 2008)
(AIS 2023 Ranking - 73)



'Immortality'
(Award of Merit 1990)
(AIS 2023 Ranking - 14)



'Insaniac'
(Wister Medal 2019)
(AIS 2023 Ranking - 59)



'Money In Your Pocket'
(Wister Medal 2015)
(AIS 2023 Ranking - 50)



'Montmartre'
(American Dykes Medal 2017)
(AIS 2023 Ranking - 9)



'Queen's Circle'
(American Dykes Medal 2007)
(AIS 2023 Ranking - 6)



'Silverado'
(American Dykes Medal 1994)
(AIS 2023 Ranking - 19)



'Superstition'
(Award of Merit 1981)
(AIS 2023 Ranking - 59)



'Vanity'
(American Dykes Medal 1982)
(AIS 2023 Ranking - 56)



'Victoria Falls'
(American Dykes Medal 1984)
(AIS 2023 Ranking - 46)



Looking for Volunteers

Volunteers are fundamental to our success as they oversee the running of Region 2. If you would like to join our group of volunteers, the region has two vacant positions on its board. Both require that you be an AIS member in good standing. Inquiries should be made with Cara Hutchings, our RVP (email address on page 2).

Assistant Regional Vice President (ARVP) – This individual shall be required to perform the duties of the RVP in the event of the RVP's absence plus assist him/her in all regional activities. The ARVP also organizes and chairs the Nominations Committee.

Awards and Exhibitions Chairperson – This individual shall oversee the rotation of the regional show awards plus arrange for the engraving and/or printing of the awards for presentation at the fall annual 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.

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

Capital-Hudson Iris Society (CHIS)

CHIS meets at the Cornell Cooperative Extension of Albany County, 24 Martin Road, Voorheesville, NY starting at 10:00 am unless otherwise noted.

CHIS Chair (acting):

Kathryn Mohr - kemohrke@aol.com

Vice Chair (acting): Cindi Jones

Secretary (acting): Michelle Young

Treasurer:

Don Salhoff - driris2000@hotmail.com



2024 CHIS Events

March 17 – UNYHS meeting at 12 noon at the Cornell Cooperative Extension.

March 22 – 24 – Capital Region Flower Garden Expo at the Hudson Valley Community College, 80 Vandenburg Avenue, Troy, NY.

April 20 – UNYHS meeting - Central Park 500 Iroquois Way, Schenectady, NY 12309

May 11 – UNYHS meeting

June 15 – UNYHS meeting

July 13 – Summer Picnic – details to be announced.

August 17 – Plant sale at Faddegons Nursery, 1140 Troy-Schenectady Road, Latham, NY

MESSAGE FROM KATHRYN MOHR, ACTING PRESIDENT

Combining meetings for Upstate New York Hosta Society (UNYHS), Hudson Adirondack Daylily Society (HADS) and Capital-Hudson Iris Society (CHIS) during 2023 has been a great success. Now with the Garden Club of the Capital District participating in our activities, 2024 should be another fun year.

Each organization still exists separately. For CHIS to continue to be recognized as an affiliate of the American Iris Society (AIS), an election of officers must be held. All officers are required to be AIS members for the entire year. An e-membership is \$15. CHIS is willing to purchase memberships for officers.

The following people have agreed to be nominated as officers of CHIS: President Kathryn Mohr, Vice President Cindi Jones, Treasurer Don Salhoff, Secretary Michelle Young. There will be a request for any other candidates at the March meeting with a vote held at the April meeting. Contact me if you are interested in serving as an officer of CHIS.

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

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

Cara Hutchings - thehutchings@mac.com

Secretary/Treasurer:

Nate Hutchings - thehutchings@mac.com

Vice Chair: Alex Solla



2024 GRIS Events

March 10 – Median Iris presentation by Wendy Roller

April 14 – ‘Aging in the Garden’ presentation by Alex Solla

June 1- Trip to Iris Country Gardens in Geneva, NY

June 2 – Iris show or exhibition – location to be determined.

August 4 – GRIS picnic – details to be announced.

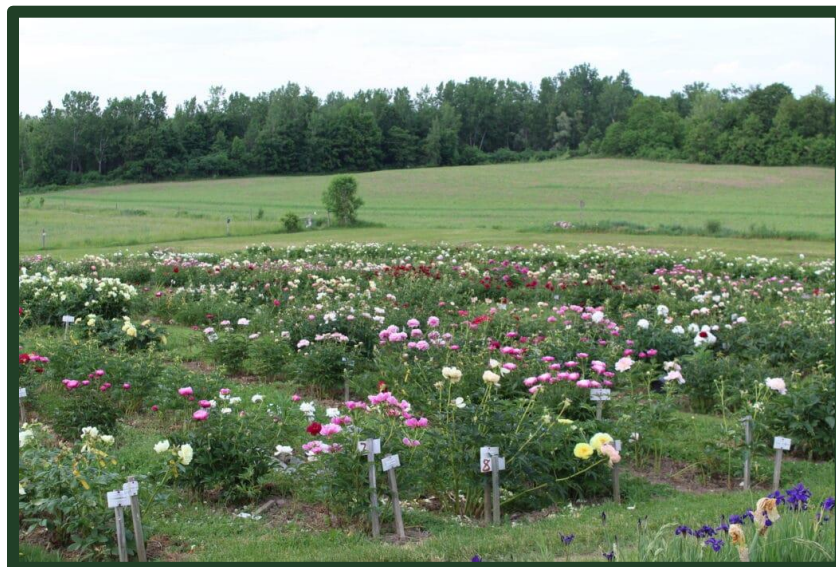
August 10 – 11 – Annual rhizome sale – details to be announced.



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

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

Facebook, [Greater Rochester NY Irises | Facebook](#)



Iris Country Gardens in Geneva, NY

Ontario Iris Society (ONIS)

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

ONIS Chair: Terry Laurin – tlaurin@rogers.com

Secretary: Kate Brewitt – kbrewitt@rogers.com

Vice Chair: Jinny Missons - jojimis@sympatico.com

Treasurer:

Lyn Hickey - lynhickey94@gmail.com



2024 ONIS Events

March 2 – Evergreen Brick Works Seedy Saturday, 9:00 am to 2:00 pm. Evergreen Brick Works, 550 Bayview Avenue, Toronto, ON.

March 23 – Innisfil Annual Seedy Saturday, 10:00 am to 2:00 pm. Innisfil IdeaLAB & Library, 967 Innisfil Beach Road, Innisfil, ON.

May 22 - Presentation at Aurora Garden and Horticultural Society, located at the Royal Canadian Legion, 105 Industrial Parkway North, Aurora, ON. Start time 7:30 pm.

June 9 - Annual flower show and sale from 1:00 pm to 3:30 pm.

July - Online Rhizome sale. Details to be announced. Watch our website and Facebook.

August 11 - Annual iris rhizome auction and sale from 12:00 pm to 3:30 pm.



Stay connected with the Ontario Iris Society (ONIS):

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

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

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



Iris reticulata
'Kathryn Hodgkin'
(Anderson, 1960)

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 Chair:

Ida Blasak - iblasak71113@gmail.com

Secretary:

Chris Krzal – cjktoybay@yahoo.com

Vice Chair:

Annette Kuhn – akuhn43@yahoo.com

Treasurer:

Marilee Farry – farmare@aol.com



2024 WNYIS Events

March 3 – 'How to Take Pictures of Iris' plus 'What To Do in Your Spring Iris Garden'. Design Display from Iris Show Schedule Class 1 - Line Designs

April 7 – Fertilization of Irises; update on nematode use, signs and symptoms of iris diseases and pests. Design Display from Iris Show Schedule Class 2 - Creative Designs.

May 5 – 'Preservation of Flowers and Foliage Manipulation'. Design Display from Iris Show Schedule Class 3 - Tables: Functional and exhibition tables.

June 1 – Annual flower show from 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm. Details to be determined.

July - Annual picnic and potluck cookout. Date and time to be determined.

August 10 - Annual WNY iris sale. Time to be determined. The Lake Erie Italian Club, 3200 South Park Ave., Buffalo, NY 14218.



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

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

WNYIS website: [HOME | Wnyiris](http://HOME|Wnyiris)

Facebook, Western New York Iris Society | Facebook



Western New York Iris Society

2024 Photo Contest



The Western New York Iris Society (WNYIS) invites residents of Western New York to participate in a photo contest featuring the iris flower. (*Exceptions include WNYIS contest judges, the contest chairperson, and professional photographers.*) You do not need to be a member to participate.

Photos will be accepted electronically between March 1 - August 31, 2024

CATEGORIES

1. Iris in a landscape or garden.
2. Close up of an iris. (Whole or part of the iris showing).
3. Photo of an iris with a pet, wildlife, or garden art.

PLEASE NOTE: NO individuals are allowed in any iris photograph submissions.

PRIZES

\$25 Home Depot gift card, iris cultivar, and iris book.

Winning photos will be published on the WNYIS website at [HOME | Wnyiris.](#)

CONTEST REQUIREMENTS

- **Only original personal photos taken by you may be submitted.**
- Each participant can submit a maximum of 2 photos in each of the 3 categories which must be in jpeg format.
- A participant can win in only one category.
- The photos should be high-resolution and numbered in sequence.
- The submissions should be sent via email to wnyisphotocontest2024@gmail.com
- A copy of the entry form must accompany **each** submission. The entry form must contain the jpeg number, category, and a brief description of the photo. (see next page)
- An email confirmation will be sent once the photo is received.
- Printed photos will not be accepted.

More photo contest details on next page.

ENTRIES NEED TO INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING IN YOUR EMAIL

Your Name: John Doe

Number of jpeg: DSC04168

Category of Photo: #3 (Photo of iris with a pet)

Brief Description of Photo: My cat smelling a yellow iris

Only one photo entry per email to: wnyisphotocontest2024@gmail.com

JUDGING

A panel of 3 judges will evaluate the photos after September 1, 2024. The decision of the judges will be final. Winners will be notified by email.

AFFIDAVIT

I am the person who took the photograph(s) enclosed, and I have not assigned any of my rights associated with these photographs to any third party. By entering the photo contest I am hereby authorizing The Western New York Iris Society a royalty free, non-exclusive right to use winning photographs and honorable mentions in publications, brochures, calendars, on the internet, and other promotional uses.

(Forms submitted by email do not require an actual signature. By filling in the Entry Form, either fully or partially by email, you grant, The Western New York Iris Society the rights specified in the above paragraph.)



Remember
Greater Portland Iris Society
is hosting the
2024 American Iris Society National
Convention
Portland, Oregon - June 26 - 29, 2024

April 16th is the last day to register at the full early registration rate of \$350.00. Full registration after April 16th and up to May 16th is \$400.00. Convention details plus a registration form can be found on the convention website, [National Iris Convention 2024 - Greater Portland Iris Society](#)

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 January 1, 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
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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.

AIS ARTISTIC DESIGN JUDGE CERTIFICATION PROGRAM

Several members of the Western New York Iris Society were interested in becoming AIS Artistic Design Judges. Region 2 thanks Marilee Farry for developing and leading a very comprehensive five-month course of study to cover the certification requirements. The course covered the concepts of the principles and elements of design, the designing and making of several designs, and how to assess designs on the show bench. Region 2 is very pleased to announce that David Baehre, Joanne Bassett, Marilee Farry, Maria Gerbracht, and Donna Lowry were certified as AIS Artistic Design Judges as of January 1, 2024. Annette Kuhn, who has also completed the course, will be eligible for certification once she completes her AIS Apprentice Judge requirements.

SPRING 2024 JUDGES TRAINING SESSIONS IN REGION 2

Two judges training sessions have been scheduled within Region 2 during the 2024 iris bloom season. The Western New York Iris Society will be hosting a "Spring Regional Gathering in the Garden" event on Saturday, May 25, 2024. The gathering will be held in David Baehre's beautiful

garden located at 5755 Genesee Street, Lancaster, New York 14086. Pre-registration is required for each session.

1. AIS Master Judge Wendy Roller will be presenting a two-hour in-garden judges' training session on median irises from 10:00 am – 12:00 noon. Please RSVP directly to Wendy by May 18 at 585-621-8985 or by email (gwr67@frontier.com) if you are planning to attend. Participants should dress for the weather as a portion of the session will take place outdoors, "rain or shine."
2. AIS Master Judge Donna Lowry will be presenting a one-hour judges' training session on "How to Construct a Floral Artistic Design for Entry in an Iris Show" from 2:30 pm to 3:30 pm. Please RSVP directly to Donna by May 18 at 585-637-6025 or by email (donnadonlowry@aol.com) if you are planning to attend.

Note: Judges training sessions must be approved in advance by the Region 2 Judges Training Chairperson. Please contact Wendy Roller if any additional judges training sessions are being proposed within the region during the year 2024.

AIS Online

You can find the American Iris Society Online

American Iris Society Website: [American Iris Society \(irises.org\)](http://AmericanIrisSociety.com)

AIS Iris Encyclopedia [WebHome < Main < Iris Wiki \(irises.org\)](http://WebHome.com)
including the Ben R Hager – Sidney DuBose Memorial Online Iris Library
[The American Iris Society - YouTube](http://TheAmericanIrisSociety.com) contains past webinars, including JT sessions, presented by the AIS.

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

The American Iris Society is also on social media,

[The American Iris Society | Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/theamericanirissociety)

[The American Iris Society \(@theamericanirissociety\) • Instagram photos and videos](https://www.instagram.com/theamericanirissociety)



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.

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