

Region 2 of the American Iris Society

NEWSLETTER

New York - Ontario - Quebec

Spring 2025

IN THIS EDITION

WHO WE ARE	2
RVP MESSAGE	3
FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK	4
TREASURER'S REPORT.....	5
MEMBERSHIP REPORT	6
JUDGES' TRAINING REPORT	7
IN MEMORIAM	8
LOOKING FOR VOLUNTEERS.....	8
CAPITAL-HUDSON IRIS SOCIETY	9
GREATER ROCHESTER IRIS SOCIETY	12
ONTARIO IRIS SOCIETY	14
WESTERN NEW YORK IRIS SOCIETY	15
2024 - MY WORST AND BEST IRIS SEASON ...	16
IRIS SEED STARTING BASICS	18
2024 BOARD MEETING MINUTES.....	21
2024 GENERAL MEETING MINUTES	22
2025 AIS NATIONAL CONVENTION	26
AIS REGION 2 ONLINE	26



SPU "Missouri Rainbows"
(Niswonger, 1996)
© Alex Solla

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

Debi Chowdhury -
debichowdhury@yahoo.com

Secretary

Kate Brewitt – kbrewitt@rogers.com

Treasurer

Annette Kuhn – akuhn43@yahoo.com

Committee Chairpersons

Archives – Cara Hutchings (See RVP)

Awards & Exhibitions – Position open

Bylaws

Kate Brewitt - kbrewitt@rogers.com

Judges' Training

Wendy Roller – gwr67@frontier.com

Membership

Georgette Martin
martingeorgette@aol.com

Webmaster

Kate Brewitt (See Bylaws)

Newsletter Editor

Leto Solla –
aisregion2.newsletter@gmail.com

Affiliate Chairpersons

Capital-Hudson Iris Society (CHIS)

Kathryn Mohr – kemohrke@aol.com

Greater Rochester Iris Society (GRIS)

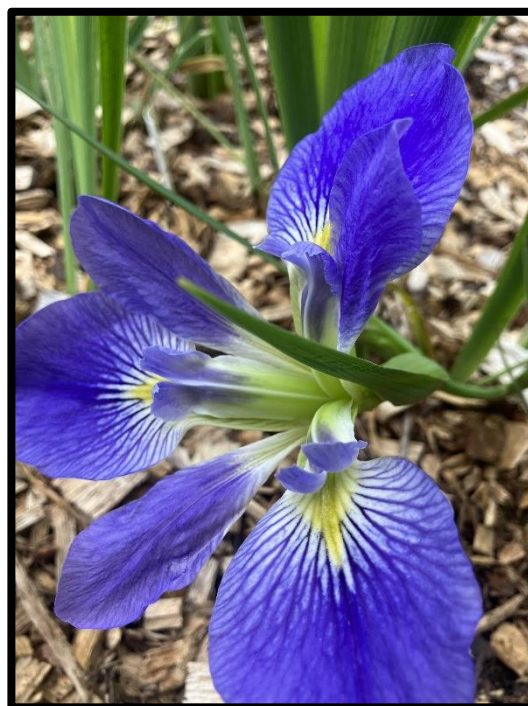
Cara Hutchings – thehutchings@mac.com

Ontario Iris Society (ONIS)

Terrance Laurin – tlaurin@rogers.com

Western New York Iris Society (WNYIS)

Ida Blasak – iblasak7113@gmail.com



Iris brevicaulis
© Leto Solla

RVP Message

Cara Hutchings, AIS Region 2 RVP



The Region 2 archives have made their way into my home this past fall, and I have been slowly going through them. What a treasure trove of information and history there is! And with the help of Wendy Roller, who has been involved with AIS since before 1980, I am hearing some very interesting stories about the early days of Region 2 and the latter years of the Empire State Iris Society, the precursor of Region 2.

It's amazing the memories that spring to mind and the emotions you have when you look at something from the past. The archives have made me want to delve into the names on the catalogs, the awards and the pictures that are in there. (Great idea for a continuing feature: who are the people who founded and supported AIS in Region 2's past?!)

While remembering the past, Region 2 needs to look to the future. We have every-other-month Zoom meetings, so we can continually keep in contact with each other, along with email and phone calls. We'll be having our first in-person meeting in five years, and we're discussing how to possibly make it a hybrid meeting for those who are unable to come.

How can you be a part of this? Attend a Zoom meeting, our next is Wednesday, March 12th. We send out invitations to all AIS Region 2 members before a meeting. Be an active member of your local iris society, or start a new one, we have a lot of resources to help! Let us know your skill set, and we'll be happy to have your help. And most important, share your love and joy of gardening, especially the joy of iris.

We'll continue to explore the past and keep looking towards the future.

Cara Hutchings



Region 2 Bi-Monthly Zoom Meetings

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

Our next meeting is March 12, 2025

From the Editor's Desk



LA 'Cone Of Uncertainty'
(O'Connor, 2015)

© Alex Solla, grown by MJ Urist

As gardeners, we are all very aware that spring is a time for changes. Although for many of us spring still feels very far away as we look out on gardens covered in snow, ice, or slush, change has already come to the editor's board here at Region 2. After six magnificent years, Kate has passed on the torch, and here I am!

So, who am I?

My name is Leto Solla, I come to Region 2 from Trumansburg, New York, and am a member of GRIS along with my father, Alex Solla. I am a relatively recent graduate from Reed College, in

Portland, Oregon, and use they/them/theirs pronouns.

My background is animal behavior and ecology, with a smattering of paleontology dashed on top. I came to irises from the beardless side of the genus, and now grow a wide variety of Louisiana irises, Siberian irises, *Iris versicolor*, *Iris ensata*, and several pseudatas, to name just a few. I am eagerly awaiting the touch of spring, as I find the blooms of *Iris reticulata* coming through the snow to be one of the season's greatest joys. I have taken my love of irises indoors, as well; I am experimenting with indoor culture of water-loving iris, with a 75-gallon aquarium and several very patient cichlids.

I am very excited to be joining Region 2 as newsletter editor, and with no further ado, onto the newsletter itself!

2025 is set to be an exciting year for all Region 2 affiliates; GRIS, ONIS, and WNYIS will all be hosting iris shows in May. More details on these upcoming shows, as well as other scheduled talks and presentations, can be found in the affiliates section beginning on [page 9](#).

We solemnly recognize the passing of Maria Gerbracht, one of our AIS-accredited judges in Region 2. She will be greatly missed, and an In Memoriam section is present on [page 8](#).

If you are interested in joining us as a volunteer for Region 2, we are still looking for an Awards and Exhibitions Chairperson. Please see [page 8](#) for more details about the role.

We have two member-submitted articles to begin the spring; Wendy Bollum (JT Chair, GRIS) speaks about challenges and successes that came in 2024 beginning on [page 16](#), and Alex Solla (GRIS) discusses how to start irises from seed beginning on [page 18](#).

Lastly, a call to our members! If you have images of irises you would like to submit to the newsletter, articles you are interested in sharing, or burning questions, please send them to me! I am excited to meet all of you, and to hear your thoughts as a region.

Wishing everyone a bountiful start to the gardening year!

Leto (aisregion2.newsletter@gmail.com)



Treasurer's Report

Submitted by Annette Kuhn, Treasurer

As of December 31, 2024, Region 2 of the American Society Iris Society had \$7,741.21 in unencumbered funds in its checking account and an I-Bond totaling \$1,088.80 including accumulated interest. Total assets at the end of 2024 were \$8,830.01 compared with a total of \$9,283.94 at the end of 2023.

Total revenue received in 2024 was \$596.20. This included \$500.00 in affiliate contributions, \$41.20 in I-Bond interest, \$45.00 from the auction at the spring regional meeting, and \$10.00 in reimbursed bank fees. Total expenses for 2024 were \$1,050.13. This included \$183.40 for web hosting and domain fees, \$6.11 for bank international fees, \$309.80 for a zoom license (2 years), \$150 for fall meeting, \$18.25 for judges' training, \$32.57 for membership mailing and \$350.00 for AIS conference registration.

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

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!

B. Gibula – Leamington, ON

L.A. Krushefski – Northport, NY

L. Solla, Trumansburg, NY

The 2025 AIS Membership Drive

\$10 Annual Membership Special

This special will run March 1 to November 1.

This special is for new members only, and for those that have lapsed in their membership for over a year.

Both Print and Full Memberships qualify for this offer.

Watch for an upcoming edition of AIS News & Notes with the details.

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 \(irises.org\)](https://www.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 January 25, 2025

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

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	Helen Schueler
Donna James	Gloria McMillen	Kathleen Shadrack
Maureen Mark	Vaughn Sayles	Dorothy Stiefel

* AIS Artistic Design Judge

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

SPRING 2025 JUDGES' TRAINING COURSES IN REGION 2

No judges' training courses have currently been scheduled within Region 2 during the 2025 iris bloom season.

Note: Judges' training sessions must be approved in advance by the Region 2 Judges' Training Chairperson. Please let Wendy Roller know if any judges' training sessions are being proposed within the region during the year 2025.

In Memoriam

Submitted by Wendy Roller, JT Chair for AIS Region 2

Region 2 mourns the passing of one of its American Iris Society accredited judges during the past year:

Maria Gerbracht, an active member of the Western New York Iris Society for many years, died on December 31, 2024. Maria became an Apprentice Judge in 1984, a Garden / Exhibition Judge in 1986, a Master Judge in 1999, a Retired Master Judge in 2020, and an accredited AIS Artistic Design Judge on January 1, 2024. Region 2 will miss Maria's knowledge of growing, identifying, and judging irises in the garden and her expertise in judging irises on the show bench and in artistic designs.



*Maria G. at the 2024 WNYS Iris Show
© Dave Baehre*



Looking for Volunteers

Volunteers are fundamental to the success of our region. They are what makes the region 'tick'.

When you volunteer you meet new people. You can also put an existing skill to effective use, or you might decide to learn 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 are interested in volunteering, we are currently looking for an Awards & Exhibitions Chairperson. Inquiries can be made with Cara Hutchings, our RVP (email address on [page 2](#)).

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.

Support and training 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

Secretary: Michelle Young

Vice-President: Cindi Jones

Treasurer:
Don Salhoff - driris2000@hotmail.com



Over The Past Year

By Kathryn Mohr, CHIS President and Arden Lawand (from 'Shades of Green' - 2025)



The Gade Farm visit, June 2024



*The Gade Farm
Welcome, June 2024*

Over The Past Year at CHIS, Continued



Kathryn M. at Garden Alliance September 2024 monthly meeting.



Michelle Y. delivered gifts to the Ronald McDonald House.



Ernie J. and Martine M. proudly displaying their gifts at the Garden Alliance December 2024 holiday gathering.

Over The Past Year at CHIS, Continued



Arden L. is ready for spring and weeding.



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

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



2025 GRIS Events

March 9 – Presenting Iris at a Show (Cara Hutchings)

April 13 – An Overview of Beardless Iris (Wendy Roller)

May 25 – GRIS Iris Show

August 9 and 10 – Annual GRIS Iris Rhizome Sale

Plans for 2025

The Greater Rochester Iris Society has a very busy calendar for 2025.

We're starting out on March 9th with a presentation by Cara Hutchings - Presenting Iris at a Show. Yes, we will be having our first show in 5 years! This program will help us know how to enter, groom and display our iris for best presentation.

On April 13, after a brief review of iris show procedures, Wendy Roller will give a presentation on Beardless Iris, Japanese, Siberian, etc., everything you wanted to know about beardless iris.

And then on May 25th, we will have our first iris show since before the pandemic!

We're all looking forward to it.

We'll be having a picnic in the summer; member Pat Bartholomew will be hosting it.

Our annual rhizome sale is tentatively scheduled for August 9th and 10th.

We hope to have a successful sale.

Greater Rochester Iris Society (GRIS) – continued

We're back to our Sunday meetings for the fall, with our first being on September 14. We'll be having a program on growing microgreens, expanding our knowledge of gardening for food.

And our last meeting of the year will be member Maureen Dunphy giving a talk on bluebirds, adding to our other talks on woodpeckers and hummingbirds.



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

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

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



SPX (Pseudata) 'Yukiyanagi'
(Shimizu by Warner, 2010)
© Alex Solla

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 – taurin@rogers.com

Secretary: Kate Brewitt – kbrewitt@rogers.com

Vice.Chair: Jinny Missons - jojimis@sympatico.com

Treasurer:

Lyn Hickey - lynhickey94@gmail.com



Early 2025 Events

Our season opener, 'Get the Jump on Spring', was held at the Toronto Botanical Garden on February 22. Watch for a report in the Spring edition of our club's newsletter, *The Iris Standard*.

Upcoming 2025 Events

March 8 & 9 – We will be at Evergreen Brick Works for their two-day Seedy Weekend, sharing information about caring for irises grown in gardens as well as on balconies. Potted irises will be available for purchase. Workshops and information booths will be open both Saturday and Sunday, 9:00 am to 2:00 pm. Evergreen Brick Works is located at 550 Bayview Avenue, Toronto, ON.

May 25 – Our annual iris show and sale is in May this year so we can take advantage of the median irises that are rarely displayed when our show is held in June. The Magdalen Award will be awarded to the highest placed median iris. Held at the Toronto Botanical Garden, this event is open to the public from 1:00 pm to 3:30 pm. If you want to enter the show, contact Terry Laurin, Show Chair, for details.

Mid-July – Our annual online rhizome sale will take place during July. Watch our website and Facebook for details. (Available to Canadians only.)

August 10 – Our annual iris rhizome auction and sale will be held at the Toronto Botanical Garden from 12:00 pm to 3:30 pm. If the auction is as popular as last year, you might want to start planning your strategies and exercising your bidding arm! Watch our website for details.



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.org)

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



2025 WNYIS Events

March 2 – Introduction to Japanese Irises

April 6 – Introduction to Louisiana Irises

May 4 – Introduction to Species and Other Varieties

May 31 – WNY Iris Show – we will be posting our schedule for the show by the end of April on our website – www.wnyiris.com

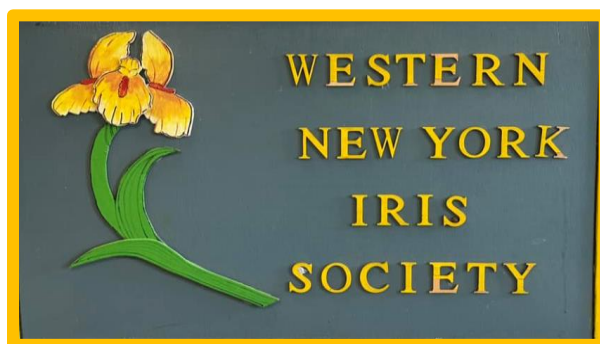


Stay connected with the Western New York Iris Society (WNYIS):

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

WNYIS website: [HOME | Wnyiris](#)

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



2024 – My Worst and Best Iris Season

By Wendy K Roller, JT Chair for AIS Region 2

I have grown irises for over 45 years. I love the six classes of bearded irises, bulbous irises, and the various other species of beardless irises that will grow in my area (zone 6A). I have been having moderate success with dependable bloom on “northern hardy” Louisiana irises; and I am currently attempting to grow three varieties of Japanese irises - unfortunately the neighborhood stray cats seem to like them too. Any other types of beardless irises or SPEC-X irises – I will give them a try!

I currently grow about 150 irises. Since moving to my parents’ former home in 2008, I have had more than a 50% yearly success rate in having at least one iris in bloom in my garden for a minimum of 100 consecutive days. My success rate has been significantly higher during the last nine years – when I have been paying more attention to soil, water, and sun/shade requirements of later-blooming beardless irises.

The bulbous *I. reticulata* irises usually start blooming in a south-facing raised bed around St. Patrick’s Day; and they continue blooming in various sunny and semi-shady places in the yard for about 30 days. Early, mid, and late season miniature dwarf, standard dwarf, intermediate, border, miniature-tall, and tall bearded irises, as well as the species irises *I. tectorum* and *I. graminea*, then keep the “consecutive days in bloom” count going until sometime in the second week of June. The Louisiana irises, Siberian irises, and several *I. setosa* seedlings then extend the iris season of bloom even further. Prior to 2024, my longest continuous iris bloom season occurred in 2023 – 108 days of irises in bloom.



SPX 'Enfant Prodige' (Huber, 1997)
© Wendy Roller

The year 2024 would be a very difficult year in my garden for two reasons: (1) The lack of significant snow coverage and the somewhat warmer temperatures which occurred during the 2023-2024 winter season meant that the irises came out of winter dormancy two - three weeks

2024 – My Worst and Best Iris Season – continued

earlier than normal. (2) On four of five consecutive early mornings from April 22nd – April 26th (when the temperatures ranged between 26-32 degrees Fahrenheit), the lawns and gardens were covered with a heavy coating of frost. These events would significantly damage the growth of my various iris cultivars. Although standard dwarf and median irises suffered the most frost damage (presenting with unrecognizable flower shapes, abnormal color combinations and patterns, aborted or very stunted bloom stalks, and poor bud count overall), each of the bearded iris classes were significantly affected.

In the midst of such a discouraging iris bloom season, I set several negative and positive iris bloom records: the worst frost damage I had ever seen in any of my garden sites through the years; the highest percentage of irises that did not bloom at all (18 percent); a new continuous bloom season record (112 days); and my longest non-continuous bloom season (129 days – which only included three single days of non-iris bloom). Mother Nature can be a fickle friend!

Hints to enjoying longer iris bloom seasons: grow early, mid-season, and late blooming iris varieties in each classification; utilize sun and shade patterns within your growing area; and experiment with growing other different species of irises which might perform well in your climate zone.



SPX (*I. versicolor*) 'Cascade Mist'
(Borglum, 1999)
© Wendy Roller



LA 'Acadian Sky'
(Musacchia, 2017)
© Wendy Roller

Iris Seed Starting Basics

By Alexander Solla, GRIS

On the surface, this should be straight forward. Stick seeds in dirt, watch them come up, poof! Irises.



SIB 'Caesar's Brother'
(Morgan, 1932)
© Alex Solla

And the truth of the matter is that it is a little bit more complex than that... But not that terribly difficult.

The first question is where does one get iris seeds? What sort of iris seeds are you wanting to try to grow? Do you have enough room to grow a lot of plants or just a few? Wait, I thought I said this was going to be simple.

Okay, the simplest place to get iris seeds is from your own irises. If bees have pollinated your plants, you will see lovely swollen seed pods where the flowers used to be. Let those seed pods dry until just before they crack open. Then harvest them (with notes about what the name of the variety you gathered them from [this is the pod parent]) and let them dry in a shallow dish or a paper bag for a few more weeks until they are completely dry. Then those seeds can be stored in a labeled envelope until ready to plant. You might be able to swap seeds with a fellow iris grower nearby too. Alternately, you can buy iris seeds from places like SIGNA (Species Iris Group of North America) <http://www.signa.org>, NARGS (North American Rock Garden Society) <https://www.nargs.org/> or even places like Seed Savers Exchange or seed swapping groups on Facebook.

The topic of what type of iris seeds to grow could be its own article. Let's jump back to HOW to get these seeds started.

Iris Seed Starting Basics– continued



Iris versicolor seeds, from
SIGNA 2023
© Alex Solla

Irises need just a little special treatment to jump-start germination. There is a coating on iris seeds that inhibits germination, and that coat needs to be washed off. Once the inhibition coat has been rinsed off, the seeds need a lengthy cold period called stratification. This amounts to a cold, moist period that helps prepare seeds to germinate once the weather warms up. There are a few ways to get seeds through this rinsing and stratification process. The simplest is to plant your seeds outdoors in pots, usually in late fall when you're planting bulbs. Plant them twice the depth of the seed, not too deep, (don't forget your label!), then water them and leave them be till spring. Many years you'll get some germination in early spring, with the caveat that without washing off the inhibition coat, you might see some germination staggered over the summer and into the following year.



Some gardeners have successfully started iris seeds with the winter-sowing method of using gallon milk jugs with seeds stratified throughout the long winter. © Alex Solla

Alternately, if you wash your seeds by soaking them and changing their water daily for about 10 days, then store them in your fridge (in moist but not wet peat moss in a lidded container) for about 90-100 days, you'll see a much higher rate of successful germination.

Chuck Chapman's website has fantastically detailed instructions on this process.

<http://www.chapmaniris.com/Sci-HappySeeds.htm>

Iris Seed Starting Basics– continued

Once you have your germinated seeds, they will need gentle care until they are ready to be transplanted into a bed; expect your seedlings to grow for 2-3 years before you see the first bloom.

Keep in mind, these seedlings will not be clones of the parent but instead crosses of that parent that set the seed and whatever plant donated the pollen. No matter what, it will be a unique iris. Give it a few years in your garden to see how it develops, multiplies, blooms, etc. It might fail to impress the first year it blooms. Or you might be pleasantly surprised.



Iris seedlings in milk jugs in early spring, with the tops of the jugs removed. Some of the seedlings have been moved to module trays (top right).

© Alex Solla



*Iris seedlings, transplanted into the garden in July.
Note: each seedling has a label because I am growing many different varieties in a limited space.*

© Alex Solla

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

October 23, 2024, at 7:00 pm via Zoom

1. Call to order

Meeting called to order at 7:04 pm with Cara Hutchings, RVP, presiding.

2. Attendance

Cara Hutchings - RVP and GRIS Affiliate President

Debi Chowdhury - CHIS

Annette Kuhn - Treasurer, WNYIS

Terry Laurin - ONIS Affiliate President

Georgette Martin - Membership Chair

Kathryn Mohr - CHIS Affiliate President

Kate Brewitt -Bylaw Chair, Interim Secretary and Webmaster, ONIS.

Absent - Ida Blasak (WNYIS Affiliate President), Wendy Roller (Judges' Training Chair, GRIS)

3. Minute Approval

Minutes from the September 11th board meeting were approved as circulated

4. Audit Committee Report

Terry reported that the Treasurer's audit report was approved by the Audit Committee.

5. Financial Statement and Proposed Budget Review

The year-to-date financial statement and proposed budget were reviewed. Assets as of September 30th were \$8,748.58, down approximately \$536 since January 1, 2024. After the annual meeting, Cara would like to review the requirements for getting a region a credit card to eliminate the international fee on the HostPapa account due to the use of a debit card, a \$6.61/year bank charge.

Motion by Terry Laurin to approve the 2025 proposed budget for presentation at the October 26, 2024 general meeting.

Motion carried.

6. Nominating Committee

Cara Hutchings presented the committee's nominations for the 2024/2025 Officers' positions,
Cara Hutchings – Regional Vice President (RVP)

Debi Chowdhury – Assistant RVP

Annette Kuhn – Treasurer

Kate Brewitt – Secretary

Motion by Cara Hutchings to accept the Nominating Committee's slate of officers.

Motion carried

Minutes – October 23, 2024 – continued

7. Show Dates and Region 2 Awards

The show rotation was WNYIS, ONIS, CHIS and GRIS.

Selections were made as follows:

WNYIS - The Ruth V. Blenis Award (best TB) – Saturday, May 31/25

ONIS - The Magdalen Award (best median iris) – Sunday, May 25/25

CHIS – no plans for a show at this time.

GRIS – award to be announced at the General Meeting – Sunday, May 25/25

Adjournment at 7:37 pm



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

October 26, 2024, at 11:00 am via Zoom

1. Call to order

Meeting called to order at 11:06 am with Cara Hutchings, RVP, presiding.

2. Attendance

Cara Hutchings - RVP and GRIS Affiliate President

Annette Kuhn - Treasurer, WNYIS member

Kate Brewitt - Interim Secretary, Bylaw Chair, and Webmaster, ONIS member

Kathryn Mohr - CHIS Affiliate President

Terry Laurin - ONIS Affiliate President

Wendy Roller - Judges' Training Chair, GRIS member

Georgette Martin - Membership Chair

Additional Attendee(s): Dave Baehre (WNYIS), Chuck Chapman, Debi Chowdhury (CHIS)

Absent: Ida Blasak - WNYIS Affiliate President

3. Interim Secretary Report

Kate reported that the following motions had been made since the 2023 general meeting on October 28.

1. November 8, 2023 Zoom meeting – Motion to donate \$200, through the AIS Foundation, to the AIS Wiki Fund, in gratitude of Bob Pries' presentation". Motion carried.

Minutes – October 26, 2024 – continued

2. September 11, 2024 Zoom meeting - Motion to pay Chuck Chapman \$150 for his Zoom presentation on October 26, 2024. Motion carried.

3. September 25, 2024 via email – Motion that Region 2 pay for a 'large meeting' add-on for October's general meeting only if registration numbers exceed the current limit of 100. Motion carried.

4. Treasurer's Report and Budget Approval

Annette reported that assets as of September 30, 2024 were comprised of \$7,679.38 in the checking account and an I-Bond with a redemption value of \$1,069.20 for a total of \$8,748.58. Year-to-date expenses are \$830.31 against a budget of \$3,015,00. The budget for 2025 was set at \$2,934.00.

Motion by Terry Laurin to approve the 2025 budget as proposed.

Motion carried.

5. Archives Report

Cara reported that she and Nate will pick up the Archives from Ben Morris' residence on November 3, 2024. It is to be stored at her residence in Rochester until the board decides its future. Cara will provide more information at the November 13, 2024 Zoom meeting.

6. Awards and Exhibitions

Cara reported that this year's award recipients elected not to receive physical awards or certificates. In future, if the position of Awards and Exhibitions chair remains vacant, affiliate show chairs may be responsible for securing awards earned at their shows.

7. Bylaws Report

Kate reported that the first draft of the Region 2 bylaws rewrite was presented to the board for review at the Zoom meeting on July 10, 2024. Since then, it was decided to put further work on the bylaws on hold until the region finishes rebuilding itself.

8. Judges' Training Report

Wendy reported that Region 2 currently has on its roster:

8 Active Master judges, 3 Garden/Exhibition judges, 1 Apprentice judge, 5 Accredited AIS Artistic judges, and 11 Retired Master judges. Region 2 accredited judges' names will be submitted at the AIS Board of Director's meeting on November 2, 2024.

9. Membership Report

Georgette reported that there are currently 79 AIS members in Region 2. This includes four affiliates and four organizational memberships.

10. Newsletter Update

Cara reported that Leto Solla has agreed to become the new newsletter editor for Region 2.

Minutes – October 26, 2024 – continued

11. Webmaster

Kate reported that in June that the number of unique monthly visitors was over 3000 for the first time. Affiliate pages regularly place in the top ten web pages viewed. Update of website program is put on hold until rebuilding of region is complete.

12. Affiliate Reports

Capital-Hudson Iris Society (CHIS) – Kathryn reported that at November's meeting there will be a review of the American Hosta Society 2024 Convention. Details of December's meeting are being worked on.

Greater Rochester Iris Society (GRIS) – Cara reported that the last meeting of 2024 was held in October when Cara gave a presentation on the 2024 AIS National Convention. Schedule for 2025 meetings is ready and will be distributed.

Ontario Iris Society (ONIS) – Terry reported that the ONIS AGM will be held October 27 when the board will make plans for 2025. Also, discussed will be the amount to be donated to Region 2 which will be sent to Annette before the end of 2024.

Western New York Iris Society (WNYIS) – Annette reported that their sale was held jointly with the Hosta and Daylily Societies. Their new brochure was handed out to attendees. After the sale, remaining irises were sold on the internet.

The WNYIS Photo Contest concluded on August 31st. Winning photos can be viewed on their website and Facebook page. It was agreed to hold a photo contest again in 2025.

WNYIS continues to hold design demonstrations at most meetings to encourage member participation and to help guests feel more comfortable when creating designs.

13. Show Dates and Region 2 Awards

The 2025 show rotation is WNYIS, ONIS, CHIS and GRIS. Selections were made as follows,

WNYIS - The Ruth V. Blenis Award (best TB) – Saturday, May 31/25

ONIS - The Magdalen Award (best median iris) – Sunday, May 25/25

CHIS – no plans for a show in 2025 at this time.

GRIS – The Ethel Anson S. Peckham Award (best historic iris) – Sunday, May 25/25

14. Nominating Committee

Cara Hutchings presented the list of nominations approved by the board for the 2024/2025 Officers' positions,

Cara Hutchings – Regional Vice President (RVP), Debi Chowdhury – Assistant RVP, Annette Kuhn – Treasurer, and Kate Brewitt – Secretary

Since there were no nominations from the floor, the nominees were declared elected by acclamation.

Minutes – October 26, 2024 – continued

15. Other Business

A Zoom meeting is planned for Wednesday, November 13, 2024 at 7:00 pm. Cara will discuss committee positions and the 2025 meeting schedule. There will be no meeting in December

Adjournment at 12:11 pm

The meeting was followed by a Zoom presentation from Chuck Chapman on 'Broken Color and Variations'.



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://AmericanIrisSociety.com)

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

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