

**Greater Rochester Iris Society**  
**an affiliate of the American Iris Society**  
**May 2019 newsletter**

Hopefully, spring has finally arrived, but even if it hasn't, my irises are starting to bloom! Secret Prince, a very pretty blue, is already showing color right outside my door.

The next three events we have planned are all right in a row; we hope you can make at least one of the events.

It starts out with our May meeting (the re-scheduled April meeting). This will be May 19<sup>th</sup> at St. John Episcopal Church Hall, 11 Episcopal Ave, Honeoye Falls. The meeting starts at 2 pm, and we will be discussing the ins and outs of showing iris. We will have an AIS program and will also discuss with our fellow experts the inside scoop on showing good iris. We will have show posters available to get the word about our show. If you would like to post a poster, but can't attend the meeting, let me know and I can either email or mail a copy to you.

The next Sunday, May 26<sup>th</sup>, we will be hosting a Judge's Training/Picnic in Neil Houghton's garden, 3873 Rush Mendon Rd., Mendon, NY. The Judge's Training will start at 1 pm, with the Picnic to immediately follow at 3 pm. I encourage everyone to attend the Judge's Training, you always learn some good points on growing iris and it's also fun!

A few details about the picnic: Parking: Parking is available in the Mendon Youth Baseball Field parking lot on the right (west) side of Neil's house. Enter his property from that side.

There will be a Memorial Day weekend baseball tournament, but the leadership has graciously agreed to rope off some space for us. I will modify our sale sign to indicate this. If you plan on driving you are urged to let Neil know so that he can make available a close count. Another possibility is to meet at Mendon Meadows market and share a ride over. A map will be provided.

The meal: The meat, and sides will be provided. There will be at least one vegetarian/vegan choice that will be filling. If you wish you may bring an adult beverage.

Let Neil know if you wish to bring a dessert.

Other details: There are parts of Neil's garden that are easily accessible, other parts, not so much. Please exercise caution. We should have enough seating, but if anyone has a comfy folding chair they are welcome to bring. Also, we will be having a raffle and door prizes, so this should be a lot of fun!

The ultimate event in our three-week marathon is our Iris Show! This will be held on June 2<sup>nd</sup> at Marketplace Mall center court. We can use all the great hints we learned at the meeting. Judging takes place from 10:30am to 1pm., and then it's open to the public from 1 to 5:30pm. Even if you don't enter any iris, we will need

help with clerking and manning the hospitality tables. We will go over all the info at the meeting, where show schedules will be handed out. If you cannot attend the meeting and need a show schedule, let me know and I can mail or email one to you.

After that, you can rest and work on your garden and get ready for our Iris Sale! This will be held at Bristol's Garden Center, 7454 Victor-Pittsford Rd. (otherwise know as Rt. 96) in Victor on August 10-11. We will be buying in some iris from Hugh Stout's Dancing Tree Iris Farm, as well as from Chad Harris's Mt. Pleasant Iris farm. Hugh will be the guest speaker at this year's Region 2 meeting, and Chad spoke at the 2017 meeting. We're really looking forward to our new venue!

In September we will have our regular meeting, the 8<sup>th</sup> to be exact. We will be discussing cleaning and prepping your garden for winter, as well as showing the AIS program "Beardless Iris".

Next, on October 4-5, GRIS will be hosting the Region 2 meeting, where the members of AIS Region 2 (New York, Quebec and Ontario, Canada) get together to discuss business and also have some great speakers. This year we will be hosting Hugh Stout, the owner of Stout Gardens at Dancingtree. We will be at the First Presbyterian Church in Honeoye Falls for this event.

The date may change, due to the fact we are having the Region 2 meeting the weekend before, but our October 13th program will center on fall, winter and early spring care of your garden. We'll also talk about bulbous iris and other bulbs in general.

Hope to see you soon!

Cara