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# WNYIS IRIS VIEWS

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**WINTER 2017** CAROLYN SCHAFFNER, EDITOR

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## **MEETING ANNOUNCEMENT**

**Western New York Iris Society invites all gardeners to meet on Sunday, January 29, 2017, at 103 Towers Boulevard, Cheektowaga at 2 PM to hear Iris Society Judge Marilee Farry talk about MAPPING YOUR GARDEN. A business meeting will finalize plans for the June Iris Show, other event dates and programs for 2017. BRING YOUR CALENDAR**  
**Call 668-1789 for information**

## **WELCOME NEW AND POTENTIAL MEMBERS**

In late Fall, 2016, Western New York Iris Society went BACK TO BASICS in a welcome to new members program.

Betty S distributed a directory of members' names, addresses, phone numbers and emails.

David B discussed what is expected of all members including meetings, donations of iris for the Rhizome Sale in August, and the need to fill out the symposium ballot which indicates Iris growing well in WNY.

Marilee F told us the advantages of belonging to the WNYIS affiliate vs. joining only the AIS; the Judges Training Program to remind all that everyone is welcome to attend the classes, which are interesting and informative, without ever having to become a judge.

Joanne B distributed educational handouts to supplement our general discussion of favorite Iris.

Experienced WNYIS members selected an Iris Garden Buddy and in warmer weather, we'll pick a time for a garden visit. The focus will be to arrange to have help with the selection of Iris types — bearded and beardless — to grow, with the most desirable location in the garden to plant the iris and other topics such as sun and shade, to mulch or not to mulch, dry versus a wet location, various fertilizers and when to fertilize. Of course everyone will want to discuss Iris borers and how to be rid of them. When Iris are in bloom, members are encouraged to visit their buddy's garden to see how to select some of the iris to plan to enter.

All the newbies picked a potted iris from the table as a welcome gift. We'll all be anxious to rejoice when they bloom. Send photos!

## WNYIS 2017 TENTATIVE Calendar

**March** — Photographing your Garden with Neil Houghton

**April** — Simple Design Lesson

**May** — How to Show an Iris Selecting the iris stalk and grooming this iris to enter an Iris Show. We'll include the jobs of a Show and understanding the Show Categories.

**June** — Iris Show

**July** — Judges Training at Joanne B's

**TBA** — Iris Viewing(s) whose? when? what? (1) small Iris, (2) TB (3) beardless

**August** — Sale (9/26/17) Preparation with Maria G on digging, cleaning, and labeling the iris for the sale and David B on when to dig iris and how to divide.

**September, October, November, December** — Stay tuned

**June's WNYIS Iris Show will emphasize BEARDLESS IRIS, since AIS Region 2 determined that it's our turn to judge the Best Beardless Iris in a Show for the McGarvey Award.**

### **The AIS website tells us about Beardless Irises**

Beardless Irises are mostly native to Asia. The first four types are commonly grown in gardens, and they all bloom after the TBs, extending the iris season even longer. The fifth type, the Pacific Coast Native, blooms before the TBs and is native to the western regions of the United States.

2. **Spurias (SPU)** are tall (2 to 5 feet in height) and elegant, and have very attractive foliage. The shape of the bloom often suggests orchids and the colors range from white and yellow through blue, wine and brown, often with bright yellow signals.

2. **Siberians (SIB)** perform best with cooler conditions, regular moisture and a slightly acid soil. The blooms can be blue, purple, red-violet or yellow with newer cultivars in brown and orange shades, and can have a variety of forms from upright to flat and round. They are most attractive in established clumps that develop a bouquet effect and grow to a height of 2 to 4 feet., although some dwarf varieties are also available. Their grass-like foliage after bloom is one of their attractive garden features. They tend to bloom slightly later than the TBs.

**3. Japanese (JI)** require a slightly acid soil and present some of the most spectacular flowers of all the irises. Blooms are usually huge, ruffled and flat in form; some are marbled with gray or white. They bloom about a month after the TBs. Japanese hybridizers have worked with them for over 500 years.

**4. Louisianas (LA)** are native to the American Gulf Coast; they require soil that is somewhat acid and wet in the spring. The blooms are usually very wide petaled and open, showing brightly colored style-arms and sharp signal-crests.

**5. Pacific Coast Natives (PCN), or Californicae (CA),** are not widely grown as they are intolerant of the climatic conditions of all but the far western area of the country. Where they can become established, they grow most attractively with graceful and dainty flowers held one to two feet high, in most colors and patterns.

**6. Species** often enhance gardens with their delicate beauty. *I. confusa* (Evansia) requires conditions similar to azaleas in a frost free climate. *I. missouriensis* enjoys wet springs and dry summers.

**Note:** Spec-X is the term applied to any hybrids that do not fall into a conventional category such as Louisianas, Siberians, or Junos. It literally means "species cross". Spec-X hybrids are often wide crosses between different clades or sections. The Spec-X term is also used by traditional bearded iris hybridizers to describe a near-species level new seedling.

### **The WILLIAM MCGARVEY BEARDLESS IRIS AWARD**

**The William McGarvey Beardless Iris Award was established by the Empire State Iris Society Board of Directors in October 1994. The purpose of the award is to foster interest in the beardless iris cultivars and to encourage growing of beardless irises. The award is named in honor of the late Dr. William G. McGarvey, a member of the Central New York Iris Society and a well-known Region 2 hybridizer who specialized in Siberian Irises.**

**The award is given to the highest placed beardless iris of an official show. A Best of Section rosette must be earned to meet the minimum requirements of the award. The award is both a Perpetual Award and an Individual award. The Perpetual Award is retained by the winner for a year and passed on to the new winner at the annual Region 2 Fall Banquet. The Individual Award is a marble paperweight engraved with the name of the award, the year, the award winner's name, and the name of the winning iris. This award is also presented at the Fall Banquet.**

## List of Winning Iris and Exhibitors

<u>Year</u>	<u>Affiliate</u>	<u>Exhibitor</u>	<u>Cultivar</u>
1995	CNYIS	Maggie Lou Smith	Roy Davidson (SPEC. x)
1996	STIS	Show Cancelled – not awarded	
1997	CNYIS	Robert Keup	Percheron (SIB)
1998	CHIS	Robert Keup	Dotted Line (SINO-SIB)
1999		No information	
2000		Robert Keup	Mysterious Monique (LAEV)
2001	CHIS	Euthemia Matsoukas	Blue Burn (SIB)
2002	AFIDS	Robert Keup	Jeweled Crown (SIB)
2003	HVIDS	Robert Keup	Ally Oops (SPEC. x)
2004	CNYIS	Robert Keup	Bedford Lass (SIB)
2005	STIS	John Colley	I. pseudacorus (SPEC)
2006	WNYIS	George Eisenhardt	Snow Queen (SIB)
2007	CHIS	Patricia Salhoff	I. graminea (SPEC)
2008	HVIDS	Frank & Rosemary Sorbello	Salamander Crossing (SIB)
2009	CNIS	Donna James	Oriental Elegance (JAP)
2010		Not Awarded	
2011	CNYIS	Janette Smith	Crystal Halo (JAP)
2012	CNYIS	M. J. Urist	Lone Star (LA)
2013		Not Awarded	
2014	CHIS	Joanne Maier	Springs Brook
2015	WNYIS	Wendy Roller	Creme Carmel (SIB)
2016	CHIS	Virginia Dorwaldt	Seneca Butterfly (SIB)

### Hybridizer William McGarvey

William McGarvey received the American Iris Society Hybridizer Award in 1976.

List of registrations/Introductions:

**Arilbred:** 'Satola'.

**Louisianas:** 'Devil's Advocate', 'Devil's Scion'.

**Miniature Tall Bearded:** 'Retell'.

**Siberian:** 'Augury', 'Billy Mac', 'Blue Burn', 'Blue Chanteuse', 'Blue Wilson', 'Dewful', 'Earthshine', 'Ego', 'Esther CDM', 'Foretell', 'Forrest Scion', 'Gulls Way', 'Gulls Wing', 'Id', 'Jamaican Velvet', 'Jane Bonsal', 'Jewel Of Happiness', 'Kings Forrest', 'Lydia Winter', 'Maggie Smith', 'Nellie E', 'Pink Haze', 'Pink Snowtop', 'Red Passion', 'Roanoke's Choice', 'Robbie Raymond's Red', 'Super EGo', 'Temper Tantrum', 'Wing On Wing', 'Yankee Doodle Boy'.

**Species Hybrid:** 'Foretell'.

**Tall Bearded:** 'Boots Meyer', 'Fall Favor'.



**KEVIN VAUGHN** is a PhD who works for the USDA in Mississippi. He has been hybridizing since his high school days. He is well known for extensive work in plant genetics. In 1999, he received the Alex J. Summers Distinguished Merit Award from the American Hosta Society.

**EXCERPT: BEARDLESS IRISES: A Plant for Every Garden**

**Situation. Kevin Vaughn, 2015, p 22-23**

Bill McGarvey (from Oswego, New York, USA) was fascinated in the genetics of irises and used the diploid Siberians to pursue the studies. He used relatively few parents, chiefly 'Royal Ensign', 'Gatineau', 'Caesar's Brother' and 'White Swirl'. McGarvey was one of the first to use 'White Swirl' in this country and his first two introductions, 'Ego' ('66) and 'Super Ego' ('66), sold for \$50 a division and they were worth it! Bill once confided to me that he offered them at this high price so that people would think they were worth \$50! Certainly people took notice of these hybrids. These took the 'White Swirl' form and expanded them with greater size or ruffling. 'Ego' is a blue self with a very compact form and 'Super Ego', a lighter blue with a beautiful veined pattern in the falls. 'Dewful' ('67), rounded out these first generation 'White Swirl' blues. 'Dewful', 'Ego' and 'Super Ego' all won the Morgan Award and 'Dewful' was the first Siberian iris to win the President's Cup for the favorite iris from the host region of an American Iris Society convention. Subsequent generations of this line gave rise to the yellowish 'Earthshine' ('75), and the whites 'Wing on Wing' ('72), 'Gulls Way' (82) and 'Ester C.D.M' ('82). As much as these McGarvey blue and white irises did for the popularity of Siberian irises, his progress in the red and pink Siberians was perhaps more important in terms of the future development of Siberian irises. A self pollination of the maroon-red 'Royal Ensign' gave not only the expected maroon reds, but also 25 percent pinks, some near anemones (McGarvey 1961). Combining this group with the 'White Swirl' line a group of beautifully formed pinks and reds were created, including the Morgan Award winners 'Augury' ('73) and 'Pink Haze' ('80) and the reds 'Temper Tantrum' ('86) and 'Jamaican Velvet' ('85). McGarvey also hybridized with the 40-chromosome types and introduced the yellows 'King's Forrest' ('69) and 'Forrest Scion' ('70) out of *I. forrestii* breeding and the near black 'Id' ('69) from *I. chrysographes* breeding. 'Id' finished out the Freudian trio with 'Ego' and 'Super Ego'. McGarvey was a professor of psychology and the names of these irises were his nods to his professional life. Another significant development was the production of 'Foretell' ('71), the first fertile hybrid between 8- and 40-chromosome Siberian irises. It grows as easily as the 28-chromosome hybrids.

## Hybridizer Kevin Vaughn

Salem, Oregon, USA

Iris Registrations/introductions:

**Border Bearded:** 'East Hampton', 'Preppy', 'See My Etchings',

**Louisianas:** 'Aqua Velva', 'Arachnophobia', 'Bananas Foster', 'Bayou Borsch', 'Beale Street', 'Cajun Greased Lightning', 'Cajun Hot Sauce', 'Cajun Pinstripe', 'Cajun Wedding', 'Cajun White Lightning', 'Candlelight Supper', 'Commander's Palace', 'Crawfish Pie', 'Creative Edge', 'Crisp and Clear', 'Dick Sloan', 'Doing Cartwheels', 'Geaux Tigers', 'In the Navy', 'Ina Garten', 'Jaws', 'Lemon Zest', 'Lime Zest', 'Little Bit Country', 'Magenta Madness', 'On the Bayou', 'Our Child', 'Razor Edge', 'Red Velvet Elvis', 'Roasted Pecan', 'Stimulus Package', 'Style and Flair',

**Miniature Dwarf Bearded:** 'Miss Perky',

**Miniature Tall Bearded:** 'Little Bluebeard', 'Real Jazzy', 'Tammy's Tutu',

**Siberian:** 'Little Red', 'Soothsayer',

**Species:** 'Puddle Party',

**Species Hybrids:** 'Ben's Legacy',

**Spuria:** 'Adriatic Memories', 'Angel's Smile', 'Banned In Boston',

**Tall Bearded:** 'Classy', 'Clear Lights',

### Learn More From Kevin Vaughn:

**VIDEOS published on May 2, 2013 by Youngs Garden Center**

[www.youtube.com/watch?v=dwHmh5ftQxc](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dwHmh5ftQxc)

see also <http://www.youngs-garden.com/succulents/>

Part 1 [Sempervivum History](#) with Kevin Vaughn

Part 2 [Sempervivum Cultivar Evaluation](#) with Kevin Vaughn

Part 3 [Exercises in Spring as a Hybridizer](#) with Kevin Vaughn

*The hybridizing clinic with Kevin Vaughn on Saturday, April 27th, 2013 discussed spring activities to prepare for hybridizing.*

Part 4 [Hybridizing Sempervivum](#) with Kevin Vaughn

## A REVIEW OF KEVIN C VAUGHN'S BOOK **Beardless Irises: A Plant For Every Garden Situation**

### Beardless Irises for Your Garden

By: Lynn Coulter [www.hgtv.com](http://www.hgtv.com)

After your bearded irises bloom, keep the flower show going with Siberian, Louisiana and other easy-to-grow beardless beauties.



Courtesy of [Schiffer Publishing](#) / Photo by Kevin C. Vaughn

'Southern Star' is a beardless iris with ruffled blooms of vivid red and gold.

Beardless irises aren't really a secret. Gardeners around the world have been growing them for years.

But these perennials are under-used, says Kevin C. Vaughn, author of *Beardless Irises: A Plant For Every Garden Situation*. We often plant their more popular, bearded cousins, but beardless irises are beautiful and versatile, he says, and they thrive in a wide range of soils and growing conditions.

Bearded irisies (*Iris germanica*), as you'd guess from the name, have soft hairs on their falls, or lower petals. These caterpillar look-alikes aren't just pretty accents; they serve a useful purpose by helping attract pollinators.

Beardless irises have what are called colorful "signals" instead of beards, and they serve the same function.

Vaughn's book covers five main groups of beardless irises: Siberian, Louisiana, Japanese, Pacific Coast Native and spuria irises. You'll find a chapter on each, along with one on species and species hybrids. All grow from rhizomes, or modified underground stems.

If your garden space is small, you can find beardless irises that are 3- or 4-inch dwarfs. If you've got plenty of room, look for giants that top out at 6 feet tall. Some irises boast blooms as big as 12-inch dinner plates, Vaughn reports, while others open to just two inches in diameter.

There are also lots of must-have colors to choose from. "Blooms range...from white through black and include the only true red colors in all irises," Vaughn says. "Many of these blossoms have bold signals of contrasting colors, patterns of stripes, dots and stippling and lighter and darker edges. The variety is just incredible!"

Vaughn's book is packed with eye-candy photographs of lovely irises to grow, along with instructions to guide everyone from beginners to experts. If you feel adventurous, dive into the chapter on creating your own beardless hybrids. Vaughn introduced his first iris hybrid at age 18, and today he holds a Ph.D. in plant genetics.

Whether you're an iris enthusiast or a novice, you'll fall for Vaughn's gorgeous images of these easy-to-grow, beardless flowers.

### **Kevin C. Vaughn's Tips for Growing Beardless Irises:**

Plant beardless irises to keep your garden colorful for months. Winter-blooming *Iris unguicularis* start the flower show, and other beardless types continue to bloom through August. "Peak bloom period overlaps the more familiar bearded iris (bloom period) and extends in both directions," says Vaughn.

"Beardless irises grow in a variety of climate zones, from Zone 3 to Zone 9 or 10, and in an amazing variety of garden situations." Some prefer wet or dry shade, while others thrive in the sun, whether the soil is acidic or alkaline. There are even beardless irises for garden spots with shallow, standing water, or spots that flood from time to time. "These are often sites that are difficult for the gardener but the beardless irises not only tolerate but burgeon in these garden locations.

Try combining beardless irises with other perennials in mixed borders; many work very well. "When the irises are not blooming, the upright foliage has



the effect of an ornamental grass, but one with gorgeous flowers, too.

You can practically stow that shovel, says Vaughn, since these kinds of irises can remain undisturbed for a long time. "Unlike the more familiar bearded irises, most beardless irises don't require constant digging or dividing. Rather, plants may be left in place for years, with the clumps improving in size. Few perennials offer this sort of performance."

Don't be afraid to let beardless irises mingle with your native plants. "Many beardless iris species that have been less well known in the past are finding increasing use in the garden and being used in wild or native plantings. Both the Pacific Coast Native and Louisiana irises are American wildflowers and can fit well into wildflower gardens.

Look for recent improvements in beardless iris hybrids, Vaughn adds; you'll find much to love in their colors and shapes, and in the patterns of the flowers. "Many of the cultivars of Siberian irises are showing tendencies towards repeat bloom. The gardener today has an abundance of wonderful choices that will enhance their gardening experience."

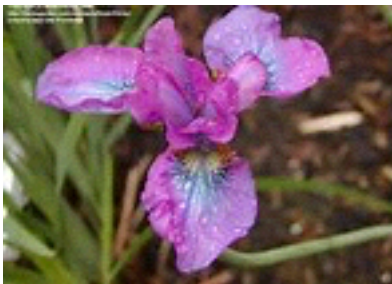
## Some McGarvey Hybrids



I. 'White Swirl'



I. 'Super Ego'



I. 'Temper  
Tantrum'



I. 'Foretell'