



NEWSLETTER

Greetings, all. I can hardly believe it's time for another one of these little blurbs....WHERE did the summer go? Hopefully, your iris gardens are in better shape than mine! Someone who shares my address evidently went nuts with the iris orders this year and I am the one who has to deal with it!

Many good things happened in the local iris world this year, and it is proper to express thanks to those responsible. Thanks to our Affiliate Presidents (Terry Laurin, Carolyn Schaffner, Cara Hutchings, Linda Knipper, and Jim Robinowitz) and show chairpeople (Terry Laurin, Judy Tucholski-Zon, Cara Hutchings, Kathryn Mohr, and Jim Robinowitz). Our show judges: Kate and Terry Laurin, Donna Lowry, Joanne Bassett, Maria Gerbracht, Carolyn Schaffner, David Baehre, Judy T.-Z., Donna James, EJ Mattson, Vaughn Sayles, John Colley, Dorothy Stiefel, Gene and Mildred Koschara, and Howie Dash. Plus the show clerks, PR folks, set-uppers and tear-downers.

All of our Region officers have been involved, of course, and some of these offices require considerable time and effort to keep Region 2 afloat. So, thank-you from Region 2 and my personal thanks to : VP Judy T.-Z., Secretary Marilee Farry, Treasurer Vaughn Sayles, Awards & Exhibition Chair Kathryn Mohr, Judges' Training Chair Wendy Roller, Membership Chair Neil Houghton, and Webmaster Kate Brewitt.

FROM YOUR RVP

Newsletter Editor Betty Schnellinger keeps us informed in a creative, colorful, and entertaining manner. I believe

the newsletter and website represent the life blood of any organization as far-flung as our Region is. Kudos!

Then there are those gracious individuals who have opened their gardens and presented judges' training sessions in our region. Sincere thanks to Wendy Roller and Jan Smith. We must not forget the WNYIS crew who have been planning and scheming for a year to host the upcoming Regional Annual Meeting. This is no trivial chore!

Everyone in the region who has attended a meeting, brought refreshments, entered a show, presented a program, helped with the regional meeting....on and on, has been an active participant in Region 2. THANK YOU!

Now, I challenge all to step up your participation if at all possible. We still must recruit new, active members. It has been my experience that people respond positively to personal attention. When you are dividing rhizomes, try offering some to neighbors and acquaintances. Invite these people to a local meeting, and offer a ride. What's to lose?

See you in Cheektowaga in October!

Dorothy



New York



Ontario



Quebec

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*Iris,
the
Rainbow
of the
Garden*

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The Newsletter of Region 2 of the American Iris Society is published twice a year and is e-mailed free 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 e-mail 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.

DEADLINES: Spring Issue February 15
Fall Issue August 15

Editor: Betty Schnellinger BettySchnell@icloud.com
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Region 2 of the American Iris Society

Officers

President & RVP	Dorothy Stiefel 260 Michigan Hollow Road, Spencer NY 14883	Irisacher@aol.com	(607) 589-7465
Vice President	Judy Tucholski-Zon 130 Cresthaven Drive, Cheektowaga NY 14225	IrisJudy@aol.com	(716) 836-2573
Secretary	Marilee Farry 103 Towers Blvd, Cheektowaga NY 14227-3140	farmare@aol.com	(716) 668- 1789
Treasurer	Vaughn Sayles 640 Sheffield Road, Ithaca NY 14850-9253	Vsayles47@aol.com	(607) 273-1355

Committee Chairpersons

Archives	Dorothy Stiefel (See President)	Irisacher@aol.com	(607) 589-7465
Bylaws	Dorothy Stiefel (See President)	Irisacher@aol.com	(607) 589-7465
Creative Money	Vacant		
Awards & Exhibitions	Kathryn Mohr 19 Roslyn Dr, Ballston Lake NY 12019-9748	kemohrke@aol.com	(518) 952-4995
Judges Training	Wendy Roller 158 Lida Lane, Rochester NY 14616-4133	Gwr67@frontier.com	(585) 621-8985
Membership	Neil Houghton 3873 Mendon Road, Mendon NY 14506	neil.houghton@me.com	(585) 624-4225
Newsletter Editor	Betty Schnellinger 405 Maple Road, Corfu NY 14036	BettySchnell@icloud.com	(585) 599-3502
Youth Committee	Vacant		
Webmaster	Kate Brewitt 120 Glass Drive, Aurora ON L4G 2E8 Canada	Kbrewitt@rogers.com	(905) 841-9676

Affiliate Chairpersons

CHIS Capital-Hudson Iris Society	Linda Knipper 15 Wiltshire Way, Schenectady NY 12309	linda.montanaro@gmail.com	(518) 377-4987
GRIS Greater Rochester Iris Society	Cara Hutchings 1996 N Clinton Avenue, Rochester NY 14621	Thehutchings@mac.com	(585) 266-0302
HVIDS Hudson Valley Iris & Daylily Society	Jim Robinowitz 10 Baldwin Road, Poughkeepsie NY 12603	Jmrobinowitz@hotmail.com	(845) 454-6415
ONIS Ontario Iris Society	Terrance Laurin 120 Glass Drive, Aurora ON L4G 2E8 Canada	Tlaurin@rogers.com	(905) 841-9676
SOIS Southern Ontario Iris Society	Chris Hollinshead 3070 Windwood Drive, Mississauga ON L5N 2K3 Canada	chrisca@gmail.com	(905) 567-8545
WNYIS Western New York Iris Society	Carolyn Schaffner 464 Crescent Avenue, Buffalo NY 14214-1914	drsnooks@twc.com	(716) 837-2285

AIS Region 2 Annual Fall Meeting

OCTOBER 14 & 15, 2016

Hosted by WNYIS with help by SOIS



Fairfield Inn & Suites Buffalo Airport

4271 Genesee Street,
Cheektowaga, NY 14225
(Across from the Buffalo and Niagara
International Airport)

All events take place at the hotel.

RESERVATIONS: Hotel Check-in is 3 p.m.

For the special rate of \$119, you must make your reservation by phone or on line by September 14.

Request Group Code: AIS. Phone: 716-633-2488

On line: [American IRIS Society Region 2 Annual Meeting Fairfield Inn & Suites](http://www.marriott.com/hotels/maps/travel/buffs-fairfield-inn-and-suites-buffalo-airport/#directions)

You may specify a room with two queen-size beds or with one king-size bed.

Complementary deluxe hot breakfast included.

DRIVING DIRECTIONS to Fairfield Inn & Suites:

From I-90 East: Take Exit 51E (RT 33 East) Follow to Genesee Street. Turn right onto Genesee and the Inn will be on the right.

From I-90 West: Take Exit 49 (Depew/Lockport) thru tolls to signal and make right onto Transit Rd. Turn right onto Genesee St. The Inn will be on the left.

Interactive MAP and DIRECTIONS:

<http://www.marriott.com/hotels/maps/travel/buffs-fairfield-inn-and-suites-buffalo-airport/#directions>

FALL MEETING REGISTRATION: Complete Registration Form below (one per person). Include a **check payable to WNYIS** for \$25.00 per person (USD only). Confirmation will be sent by email.

REGISTRATION: Copy and Print the form below for each person attending.

MAIL BEFORE SEPTEMBER 30, 2016, to:

Marilee M. Farry, Registrar, 103 Towers Blvd., Cheektowaga NY 14227 Phone: 716-668-1789

Confirmation will be sent by e-mail.



AIS Region 2 Annual Fall Meeting (A separate form for each person attending)

Name _____

Name and Society Affiliation for Name Tag _____

Address _____

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

Phone with Area Code _____

E-Mail _____

I will attend Friday's Reception yes no

I will attend Judges' Training yes no Amount Enclosed \$ _____

AIS Region 2 Annual Fall Meeting

AGENDA

OCTOBER 14 & 15, 2016

Hosted by WNYIS with help by SOIS

FRIDAY 10/14/2016

5-6 pm	REGISTRATION
6-7 pm	RECEPTION, Light Refreshments
7-7:45 pm	SLIDE SHOW: 2016 AIS CONVENTION, Vaughn Sayles and Carol Warner
8-9 pm	AUDIT COMMITTEE
ALL EVENING	SILENT AUCTION Viewing and Bidding

SATURDAY 10/15/2016

7- 8 am	REGISTRATION
7 am to 1:30 pm	SILENT AUCTION Viewing and Bidding
8-10 am	DIRECTORS' MEETING
10-10:35 am	SPEAKER CAROL WARNER, "Beardless Irises for the Landscape"
11-12:30 pm	GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING
12:30-1:30 pm	Hot Buffet LUNCH (with Live Auction of Beardless iris benefiting WNYIS)
1:30 pm	Bidding ends for Silent Auction
1:30-2 pm	BREAK & TALLY (Early Pay for Silent Auction items)
2:15-4:15 pm	JUDGES' TRAINING, <u>Judging Pseudata Irises</u> by Carol Warner
4:15-5 pm	Pay up, pick up silent auction items, GOODBYES

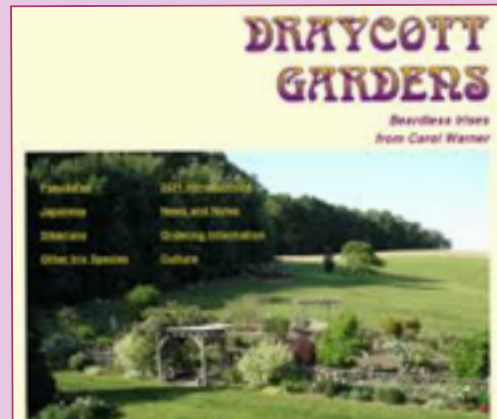
Carol Warner
 Guest Speaker for the
 2016 Region 2 Annual Meeting!



**2016 AIS
 National Convention**
 with Vaughn Sayles
 Friday 7 p.m.

**Beardless Irises for the
 Landscape**
 Saturday 10 a.m.

Judges Training
Judging Pseudata Irises
 Saturday 2:15 p.m.



Silent Auction
What are YOU donating?

To help Joanne Bassett, Silent Auction coordinator, to complete the bid sheet before the annual meeting, she asks that you email her about what you are donating. Do it now; she is ready and waiting to hear from you! You'll put a smile on her face, and you'll feel good too. Email Joanne at jbiris123@yahoo.com

Awards and Exhibitions

Kathryn Mohr, Chairperson

2016 Exhibition Report

Date	Affiliate	Best Specimen	Silver Medal	Bronze Medal
May 21, 2016	HVIDS	IB 'Rimaround' Susan Rivard	Frank Sorbello 12 blue ribbon entries	Faith Larson 3 blue ribbon entries
June 4, 2016	WNYIS	Spec X 'Sushi' Dave Baehre	Dave Baehre	Judith Tucholski-Zon
June 4, 2016	CHIS	Historic 'Gold Imperial' Kathryn Mohr	Virginia Dorwaldt	Euthemia Matsoukas
June 5, 2016	ONIS	MTB 'Stitched in Blue' Ron Walker	Terry Laurin	Kate Brewitt
June 5, 2016	GRIS	'Lion's Share' Dorothy Stiefel	Dorothy Stiefel	Wendy Roller
June 5, 2016	SOIS	Show Canceled		

Region 2 Awards

Award	Affiliate	Specimen	Displayed by
Magdalen	GRIS	'Speckled Spring'	Dorothy Stiefel
Peckham	WNYIS	Historic 'Lydia Winter'	Judy Tucholski-Zon
McGarvey	CHIS	'Seneca Butterfly'	Virginia Dorwaldt
Blenis	HVIDS	Criteria not met	
Wirtz-Rettig			

Local Awards

Award	Category	Specimen	Displayed by
Jerry Murphy Memorial	Best Yellow or Orange Iris	'Corn Harvest'	Frank Sorbello
Kathryn E. Mohr	Best Historic Iris	'Gold Imperial'	Kathryn Mohr
CHIS Founders	Most Blue Ribbons Won by a Novice		Meredith Van Forst

Other Awards

Division	Affiliate		Recipient
Artistic	GRIS	Best Design of Show	Donna Lowry
Artistic	WNYIS	Best Design of Show	Annette Kuhn
Educational	WNYIS	Bronze Medal - "Preparing Iris for Show Bench Judging"	Joanne Bassett

Judges Training Wendy Roller, Chairperson

REGION 2 JUDGES and STUDENT JUDGES Status Roster – as of July 31, 2016

Active Master

David Baehre
Joanne Bassett
Chuck Chapman
Maria Gerbracht
Raymond Ives
Donna James
Eugene Koschara
Mildred Koschara
Donna J. Lowry
Maureen Mark
Gloria McMillen
Wendy K. Roller
Carolyn Schaffner
Mary Jane Shanley
Dorothy Stiefel
Judith Tucholski-Zon

Retired Master

Ronald James
Daniel P. McMillen
James McMillen
Helen B. Schueler
Kathleen Shadrack
Shirley A. Varmette
Ken Viner

Candidate for Judgeship

Suzanne Perry

Apprentice Judge

Jinny Missons
Betty Schnellinger

Garden / Exhibition

Kate Brewitt
John Colley
Marilee Farry
Ann Granatier
Robert Granatier
John W. Heimke
Nancy Kennedy
Terrance Laurin
E.J. Mattson
Vaughn Sayles
Janette Smith
Mary J. Urist

THE YEAR IN REVIEW

During the period August 1, 2015 – July 31, 2016, Region 2 judges and student judges collectively earned 92 hours of credit for attending classroom and in-garden training sessions. The training sessions were held in Louisiana, New Jersey, New York, and Pennsylvania.

A summary of the five judges training sessions offered within the Region 2 area during the last year is as follows:

- During the 2015 Region 2 Annual Fall Meeting event held in Fishkill, New York, two classroom courses on "Standard Dwarf Bearded Irises" and "Spuria Irises" were taught by AIS Master Judge Chuck Chapman, iris hybridizer and owner of Chapman Iris Gardens in Guelph, Ontario, Canada.
- AIS Master Judge Wendy Roller presented an in-garden course on "Median Irises" during a Greater Rochester Iris Society open garden event.
- AIS Garden / Exhibition Judge Janette Smith presented two courses on "Ethics" and "Tall Bearded and Siberian Irises" in her gardens in Pulaski, New York.

FALL, 2016 JUDGES TRAINING COURSE IN REGION 2

The Western New York Iris Society, with assistance from the Southern Ontario Iris Society, will be hosting the AIS Region 2 Annual Meeting on Saturday, October 15, 2016. The event will take place at the Fairfield Inn and Suites Buffalo Airport, 4271 Genesee Street, Cheektowaga, NY 14225 (which is located directly across from the Buffalo-Niagara International Airport).

Emeritus Judge Carol Warner will be the guest speaker at the event and will also present a judges training session on *pseudata* irises (a species cross between *I. pseudacorus* and *I. ensata*). "Beardless Irises for the Landscape" is scheduled for 10:00 am on Saturday morning. "Judging Pseudata Irises," a two-hour classroom course, is scheduled from 2:15 – 4:15 p.m. Carol is an iris hybridizer and owner of Draycott Gardens in Upperco, Maryland. Carol also introduces *pseudata* irises for Hiroshi Shimizu of Japan.

Please let Marilee Farry know if you are planning to attend the afternoon judges training session. Marilee may be reached by mail at 103 Towers Boulevard, Cheektowaga, New York 14227 or by telephone at 716-688-1789.

2017 JUDGES TRAINING COURSES IN REGION 2

No judges training sessions are currently in the planning stages for the 2017 iris bloom season. Since all courses must be approved in advance by the Region 2 Judges Training Chairperson, please inform Wendy Roller if a judges training session is being proposed within the region for the year 2017.



Dykes Medal Winner 2016

'Swans in Flight'
(Robert Hollingworth,
R. 2006)

Membership Neil Houghton, Chairperson

The Region 2 new member challenge continues through the end of this calendar year. We're all proud of the locals who are taking this membership growth opportunity forward. We see new youth members, new mature members and everything in between.

I have heard from members in the region, members nationwide and even hybridizers, the recognition that broadening diversity and "deepening our bench" is the only way that AIS will survive and flourish.

Because this challenge has made a difference and will continue until December 31, we have 4+ months to give it all we can! Consider the following:

- The youth opportunities list we compiled.
 - o School Presentations
 - o 4-H
 - o Outdoor Education...
- Taking the poster to local garden clubs, other societies
- Do a program at your public library
- Put up posters in public gardens, arboretums, horticultural displays at museums
- Is there a great work of art at a local art gallery that features irises? Develop a brochure about the piece and the significance of the flower. Put in a tear-off for your local affiliate and add the opportunity to join the AIS for a big discount!

These are just a few ideas to spark the imaginations that are a huge part of our membership knowledge!

If you have an idea and need some help with developing a brochure, flyer or poster send it to me (or Betty).

Now, go and rake in those new members!

Neil Houghton

***Remember, our New Member Challenge
runs the entire calendar year 2016!***

Read the complete challenge rules on Page 33.

Capital Hudson Iris Society

Chair: Linda Knipper
Vice Chairs: Dan and Joanne Maier

Secretary: Virginia Dorwaldt
Treasurer: Don Salhoff

The winner (Best Specimen) of the CHIS June 4th Iris Show at Bethlehem Public Library in Delmar was Kathryn Mohr with *Gold Imperial*, an MTB historic iris. Meredith Van Vorst won for Tall Bearded with a beautiful specimen of *Vanity*. The Species Cross iris *Magyar Medley* won third prize for Virginia Dorwaldt, who also won fourth for her Siberian *Seneca Butterfly*. Virginia Dorwaldt also won the McGarvey Award for Best Beardless in Region 2, and the Silver Medal for most blue ribbons. Euthemia Matsoukas won the Bronze Medal for second most blue ribbons. Kathryn Mohr did a great job of coordinating the show which was judged by Dorothy Stiefel and John Colley.

Following a very successful spring Siberian Iris and Perennial sale, our Annual Rhizome Sale on August 6th at Faddegon's Nursery in Latham, NY, netted just over \$3,000. Bob Keup sent many rhizomes from Maine, Pat and Don Salhoff and Kathryn Mohr provided many historic, medians and tall bearded. There were more than 100 bags of irises prepared by the group at the August 3rd "Digging Party", some of them with 60 or more rhizomes in them! One of the tall bearded irises that Bob Keup sent from Maine filled three shopping bags full of rhizomes – there were 99 of them! It was *Dazzling*, and it sure lived up to its name! We were able to send some of the rhizomes that were left from our sale to the Hudson Valley group for their sale, so nothing went to waste.

If you have any other questions on the above, feel free to contact Euthemia Matsoukas at EuthemiaMatsoukas@gmail.com.

Our fall bus trip will be on Sunday, September 25th, to Tower Hill Botanical Gardens in Boylston, Massachusetts, with a stop on the way back at John O'Brien's Nursery in Granby, Connecticut. If you are in the Albany area and would like to participate in the trip, the cost is \$50 including admission. The bus leaves from Crossgates Mall at 8:00 a.m. and will return at around 7:00 p.m. CHIS bus trips are always fun. Contact Linda Knipper at Linda.Montanaro@gmail.com to register for the trip.

Greater Rochester Iris Society



President: Cara Hutchings
Vice President: Neil Houghton

Secretary/Treasurer: Nate Hutchings

Despite the heat, GRIS has been having a busy year. We started out in March with a new PowerPoint program that member Neil Houghton has been working on, with a broad overview of the different types of iris and general iris information. While a work in progress, it was well received by members and guests, and a lively discussion ensued, with two new AIS member signing up!

April saw member Vaughn Sayles presenting a visual tour of the 2015 AIS Siberian/Species convention "Another Day in the Garden", held in Portland, OR. It was a beautiful presentation and everyone enjoyed it!

Our Iris show was a great success with more than 100 iris displayed. Dorothy Stiefel won Best in Show with Lion's Share, and Donna Lowry won Best Design of Show. The public was very interested in the show and we did get a new member from it!



Our picnic was held at member June Smith's home this year. She has a wonderful garden and everyone had a lot of fun and really enjoyed socializing. Iris and other plants found new homes.

Our sale this year was held at a local garden center, the same as last year. We did very well. We gave a lot of information to the public, and we have a few potential new members.

Our next program, on September 11, is **Photographing Iris and Other Flowers**. Neil Houghton, a GRIS member and photography enthusiast, and Andy Smith, a professional photographer from Rochester, will offer tips for gardeners who love to preserve the bloom moment with an eye toward record-keeping or for artistic endeavors. Topics will include setup, framing, lighting, and using the fun features of modern cameras. You will learn to take better pictures whether you have an iPhone, a point and shoot camera, or a more expensive SLR. Sounds like a great presentation! (More on the next page.)

Our last meeting of the year, on October 9, will be our annual business meeting. **Open Q&A** will be our focus. How did your garden grow and endure the early spring and late frost? We'll ask and answer often asked questions about growing iris. This relaxed format program is a great opportunity to share and learn.

Our meetings take place at St. John's Episcopal Church, 11 Episcopal Ave., Honeoye Falls, NY at 2 pm. Hope to see you there.

Photographing Iris and Other Flowers

by Neil Houghton, GRIS Vice President and Program Chair

Sunday, Sept 11 at 2 PM

Photographing your iris bloom season is a great way to document what bloomed and when or just to make the bloom season live on. Join GRIS at 2 p.m. Sunday, September 11, at St. John's Episcopal Church in Honeoye Falls, NY to go a bit deeper into taking great photos of and in your garden.

Andy Smith is a local photographer whose work has been on display at local galleries and shows. I also enjoy exploring photography. We will talk about different types of shots and we'll offer tips to help you take eye-catching photos.

Here are some photos we'll be working with. Which are good, which are great, and which could stand some work?



'Cranapple' - showing a complete single bloom.

Photo by Neil Houghton

'Tennessee Gentleman' - using framing and cropping.

Photo by Neil Houghton



Photographing Iris and Other Flowers, cont'd

'Concertina' - documenting bloom size and stalk height.

Photo by Neil Houghton



Can you name this iris?

Andy Smith has used lighting and a macro lens to create this stunning image.



Above: 'Jesse's Song' - lighting, angle, depth of field. *Photo by Neil Houghton*

Below: 'Seneca Pink Delight' - full bloom. *Photo by Andy Smith*



Hudson Valley Iris and Daylily Society

President: Jim Robinowitz
Vice President: Georgette Martin

Treasurer: Bill Larson
Secretary: Sue Rivard



Sept 17 HVIDS MEETING - Anna Carlson, Daylily Hybridizer and owner of Ravencroft Cottage, a daylily place from Central New York who will discuss her program on developing new plants. Our next featured guest speaker will present on Saturday, same time, different day!

Oct 6 HVIDS MEETING - Sondra Tillou, This is going to be a special luncheon meeting. Info to follow.

Nov 6 HVIDS MEETING - Amy Howansky, owner of Backyard Solutions will discuss "Flowers and Flowering Shrubs".

Dec 4 Annual HVIDS Luncheon

"We humans may at times live in the wilderness, the wild may lodge in the innermost recesses of our beings, may inhabit our souls, but we never have been, never could be completely *of* the wild, which is why we are the one species that must eternally be learning to live *with* wild nature without wrecking it." Adrian Ayres Fisher

From the blog, Ecological Gardening
[http://www.ecologicalgardening.net/
2015_02_01_archive.html](http://www.ecologicalgardening.net/2015_02_01_archive.html)

Scroll down to: Helping a landscape regenerate includes paying attention to old stories

Ontario Iris Society

President: Terrance Laurin
Secretary/Editor/Webmaster: Kate Brewitt

Vice President: Jinny Missons
Treasurer: Lyn Hickey

ONIS had its first President's Open Garden in five years. As we flung open the garden gate on May 22, Terry proudly announced there were 110 clumps of irises in bloom. Visitors selected their five favourite cultivars from those in bloom. As if knowing she was going to be making a royal appearance, the SDB 'Cameo Queen' (Jones, 2001) was this year's top selection. She truly was the 'queen of the show'!

Other visitor favourites were SDB 'Can't Wait' (Black, 2000), 'Flirting Again' (Aitken, 2002), SDB 'Big Blue Eyes' (Black, 2006), SDB 'Blueberry Tart' (Chapman, 2002), SDB 'Butterscotch Carpet' (Chapman, 1994) and SDB 'Eye of the Tiger' (Black, 2008).

Our annual flower show was held June 5th at the Toronto Botanical Garden. Despite the rains the night before, nine exhibitors managed to enter over 60 show-worthy bloom stalks. It was a very successful show with lots of visitors to the Toronto Botanical Garden dropping by to admire the flowers. Awards were given as follows:

Queen of the Show: MTB 'Stitched In Blue' (Fisher, 2006), exhibited by Ron Walker.

Princess of the Show: TB 'Stairway To Heaven' (Lauer, 1993), exhibited by Terry Laurin.

Best Historic Iris: TB 'Damozel' (Morrison, 1922), exhibited by Kate Brewitt.

Best Specimen, Youth Division: TB 'Stairway To Heaven' (Lauer, 1993), exhibited by Abaigeal Missons.

AIS Silver Medal: Terry Laurin with six 1st place ribbons.

AIS Bronze Medal: Kate Brewitt with four 1st place ribbons.

People's favourite!

SDB 'Cameo Queen'

(Jones, 2001)



MTB 'Stitched in Blue' (Fisher, 2006)



TB 'Stairway to Heaven' (Lauer, 1993)



TB 'Damozel' Morrison, 1922

ONIS, cont'd:

We had a full house at our Auction on August 7th at the Toronto Botanical Garden. Bidders eagerly raised their bidding cards for the opportunity to own one of 25 iris rhizomes supplied by Tara Perennial Farm. As a bidding war ensued over 'Volcanic Glow' (Keppel, 2012), onlookers watched in amazement. After the winning bid of \$39 was announced, the winning bidder exclaimed "I know what I like and I go after it". He sure did! Table sales were also brisk with many cultivars selling out.

Our annual meeting is in the planning stages and will take place in late October or early November. Our events for 2017 will be finalized at this meeting.

Western New York Iris Society

President: Carolyn Schaffner
Vice President: Marilee Farry

Secretary: Maria Gerbracht
Treasurer: Dave Baehre

Western New York Iris Society found itself to be enthusiastic about the Region 2 Membership Contest and threw itself into the task of signing new members. Personal contacts proved to be our secret.

We never dreamed that planning and executing a Regional Meeting would keep us busy for a whole year, but it has! During all that hustle and bustle, we managed to have garden visits to Dave Baehre's, Joanne Bassett's and Maria Gerbracht's gardens, where we could see well grown iris and companions used in beautifully landscaped gardens.

In March we learned from Andrea Locke's presentation that we are no longer allowed to sell Iris *pseudacorus* at our sales; nurseries are no longer allowed to sell them. She told us about the DEC's Invasive Species List in New York State. With *I. pseudocorus* listed on the Do Not Plant or Sell or Propagate list, we've investigated alternatives.

One of our new members, Annette Kuhn, won the Best Design of the Iris Show in June. Dave Baehre won top prizes, while in my exhibit, one bloom died and a new bloom opened, earning it absolutely nothing! Oh well, there's always next year. Menne's Nursery was very gracious and helpful in providing the venue. The full report on the Show is elsewhere in this Newsletter.

As I write, we're planning our Annual Iris Rhizome and Plant Sale, held with the Daylily and Hosta Societies at the Botanical Gardens. The site provides a wide ranging traffic flow resulting in much increased income. We've already planted our Iris Acquisitions that we hope will increase mightily for another year's sale.

AND we're putting the finishing details into the plan for the Regional Meeting on October 14 and 15, 2016. We hope you'll spend a little time in our Fair City, especially taking in the magnificent growth and development in Downtown. The Medical Corridor has provided impetus for all kinds of projects. Buffalo has become very well known for its food at restaurants. So, don't settle for a chain place, or even Buffalo Wings at Anchor Bar (unless you *must*) — partake of a local eatery.

GOING EAST

by Vaughn Sayles

The year 2016 brought a new experience for me. We were actually going EAST for an AIS National Convention. Although I've attended a number of AIS Conventions, this was the first one that did not involve traveling in a westward direction. In addition we could actually drive to the convention in a reasonable amount of time and would not have to worry about cramming plant purchases into our luggage.

So on Monday, May 23, we loaded the car including a box full of items for the Region 2 Basket for the Silent Auction and headed for the Newark Airport Marriott in hopes of seeing how the newest iris cultivars were doing in East Coast gardens. We were pleased!

The first couple of days we filled our time with the optional tour, attending meetings and presentations and most importantly catching up with friends. The camaraderie with fellow iris "nuts" is one of the bonuses of attending the convention and we had lots of opportunities to share our experiences including garden successes and failures.

On May 26 we climbed on board the buses for the trip to Presby Memorial Iris Gardens in Montclair, New Jersey. We got to see firsthand why some people refer to it as "The Rainbow on the Hill." The beds were at peak bloom and even without the guest iris there was an amazing collection of iris to see. Many of the historic iris in their collection were outstanding and we were dazzled by the planting of 'Barbara Walther' hybridized by



Arthur Casselman (R-1959, I-2015) at the end of one of the many beds full of colorful blooms. We enjoyed a delectable grilled lunch under a tent overlooking the gardens and had a chunk of the afternoon to continue exploring the many beds as the temperatures climbed. New Jersey was experiencing an early heat wave and I don't think any of us were ready for the warmth and humidity. It was nice not to have to worry about rain.

Every convention showcases the iris in slightly different climates and the iris may not always respond consistently. It was interesting to see that many of the older varieties of bearded iris had healthy vegetation but a number of the guest iris were victimized by leaf spot. Siberian iris grow well for us in the Southern Tier of New York but did not do very well in the guest beds. 'Ginger Twist' from Jan Sacks and Marty Schafer (2009) was an exception with a clump topped with many blooms.



Our second day of garden tours took us to Pennsylvania where we had the opportunity to explore two private gardens. Our first stop was George and Carol Boyce's Glenara Gardens where the gardens overlook a long pond with huge Koi swimming about. It was a relaxing setting with a great variety of plantings.



As we explored the plantings at Glenara Gardens outside of Palmerton, Pennsylvania we once again noticed that many of the older cultivars of bearded iris were growing much more robustly than the guest iris. Before we knew it we were whisked off to the Blue Shamrock Country Club for an Amish catered buffet before heading to the Hildenbrandt Garden near Slatington, Pennsylvania. Here we found rows and rows of iris from the collection that once was the backbone of Hildenbrandt's Iris Garden when it was a commercial enterprise. The guest iris were putting on a nice display along with the collection that marched in rows up the yard and the beds continued across the road where a number of convention attendees spent quite a bit of time. As with Presby Gardens there was much to see with a limited amount of time but it was rewarding.



Our third day of iris garden tours found us back at Presby Gardens and we were not disappointed. In spite of the hot weather the iris were still loaded with blooms and a number of guest iris that were not in bloom on our first visit were now competing with their earlier blooming counterparts for our attention. So many iris, so little time!

As with all conventions there are certain iris that stand out. Color, bloom placement and plant form all contribute to a combination that can be both

memorable and desirable. The convention committee asks you to vote for favorite iris. Many of us also vote with our wallets when we place orders for iris that we want to see growing in our gardens.

One seedling that stood out at both the 2015 and 2016 AIS National Conventions was Lucy Burton's L03-MY-rust. It's a miniature tall bearded (MTB) with abundant and flashy blooms that made it a favorite of many at the convention.



MTBs are my favorite bearded iris and I found many that were performing well. 'Breakfast in Bed', 'Cheerful Lass', 'Fisher Fashion', 'Huggable You', 'Hot News', and 'Gesundheit' are names that pop into my mind of MTBs that were among the recent introductions creating nice displays.

A border bearded with blooms having a subtle blend of colors on a nice clump was Lynn Markham's 'Dapple Dawn' (2014). It really caught my eye and made it to my mental list of new iris that I wanted to grow. Even after returning home and facing the reality that the beds were pretty full, it found its way onto my 2016 order lists and it's not even an MTB.



In sharp contrast to the muted colors of 'Dapple Dawn' was the intermediate bearded iris 'Empress Ann' registered in 2013 by Anthony Playtis. Its bold yellow blooms were easily seen across the gardens.



The number of tall bearded guest iris in bloom was amazing and there was tremendous variety in the seedlings and introductions from pom poms on Brett Butler's BUF08A to the smaller, well formed and spaced blooms with a pleasing color combination on Paul Black's 'Three Part Harmony' (2014).

Now as I'm planting the iris rhizomes that have been arriving I can't help but reflect on the images of the many beautiful iris I had a chance to see at the convention. In the future when I see blooms on some of them I'll be transported back to 2016 and the wonderful experience of "Going East." East, Central, or West, AIS Conventions are always the best!

ON THE INTERNET

CHIS http://www.aisregion2.org/region2_007.htm
 GRIS <https://www.facebook.com/RochesterIris/> Neil Houghton
<http://rochesteriris.blogspot.com> Neil Houghton
 HVIDS <http://hvids.org>
 ONIS <https://sites.google.com/site/ontarioirissociety/>
 SOIS http://www.aisregion2.org/region2_012.htm

Region 2, AIS <http://www.aisregion2.org/> Kate Brewitt, Webmaster
 American Iris Society <http://irises.org/> <https://www.facebook.com/theamericanirissociety>
<http://wiki.irises.org/bin/view> AIS Iris Encyclopedia. Photos, descriptions; Terry Laurin, TWIKI Photo Manager.

Canadian Iris Society <http://www.cdn-iris.ca> Chris Hollinshead, Webmaster

World of Irises: The Blog of the American Iris Society <http://theamericanirissociety.blogspot.com/>

Alan McMurtrie

Iris

by
Dorothy Stiefel

We hope that most of you are well aware of the amazing things that Alan McMurtrie, Region 2 member and iris hybridizer, has been achieving with that early harbinger of spring, *I. reticulata* and its hybrids. If not, please visit his website: www.Reticulatas.com for an overview and education.

It used to be that purple, violet, and blue were *the* colors available. No more! New combinations of white, yellow, aquamarine blue, violet, brown and orange in amazing patterns and combinations have resulted from Alan's painstaking work of over 15 years. And now, some of them are finally coming to market! This has truly been an enormous undertaking requiring years of time and bundles of money. It is our firm hope that Alan may eventually recoup some of his financial investment. The time, of course, is gone, as a true labor of love.

It takes many years to produce enough stock to put a new *reticulata* iris on the marketplace, and they are subjected to customs and rules that are quite different than what hybridizers of bearded iris rhizomes experience in the U.S. As bulbous irises, *reticulatas* are registered and regulated by the Royal General Bulbgrowers Association (KAVB) in Holland. Plant breeders rights cost 2,000 Euros, and the fee is 200 Euros to register each variety (approx. U.S. \$226 or Canadian \$291). This is a little more costly than the fee charged by the American Iris Society for registering a new iris (U.S. \$ 15)! The whole process of registering, dealing with wholesale growers, and



Iris 'Velvet Smile'
(Reticulata hybrid)

producing marketable quantities in Holland is much more difficult; really, another world. Finally, retailers with interest in the bulbs must be found and convinced that there IS a market for these beauties.

This is where irisarians come in. These unique new irises are finally available, and they can grace your early garden or provide a cheerful respite from winter's gray when blooming in a pot in your home! Some sources:

Odyssey Bulbs, www.odysseybulbs.com, Mass., U.S. They offer 'Mars Landing,' 'Sea Breeze,' and 'Velvet Smile' at \$4 per bulb. They also offer 'Orange Glow' at \$12 per bulb.

McClure & Zimmerman, www.mzbulb.com, U.S. has 'Spot On,' 'Scent Sational,' and 'White Caucasus,' all at \$7.95 for 6 bulbs.

White Flower Farm, www.whiteflowerfarm.com, U.S. has 'White Caucasus,' \$12.95 for 12 bulbs. They had 'Eye Catcher' at the same price, but it is SOLD OUT at this time.

Jacque Amand International, U.K. www.jacqueamandintl.com. They offer over a dozen varieties of these irises...several now SOLD OUT. Unfortunately, the necessity of a phyto raises the cost considerably, but this is definitely the largest selection available.

Botanus, Canada. www.Botanus.com. Offers 'Eyecatcher,' 'Seabreeze,' 'Sunshine,' 'Splish Splash,' and 'White Caucasus,' all at \$7.75 for 5 bulbs. Also, 'Spot On', \$7.75 for 10 bulbs.

Even if you do not purchase any bulbs, please check out Alan's website! (www.Reticulatas.com). It is easy to see why in 2010 he was awarded the **Foster Memorial Plaque** by the British Iris Society.

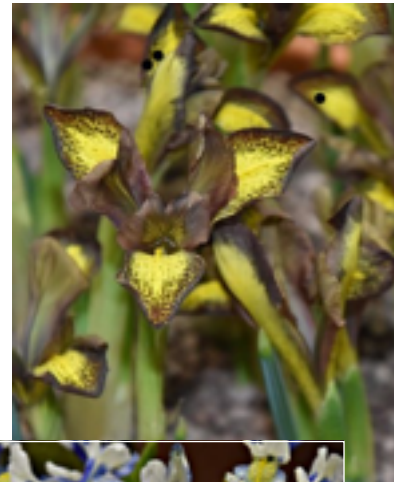


Read an earlier article in the Jan/Feb 2013 issue of the AIS Bulletin
Iris

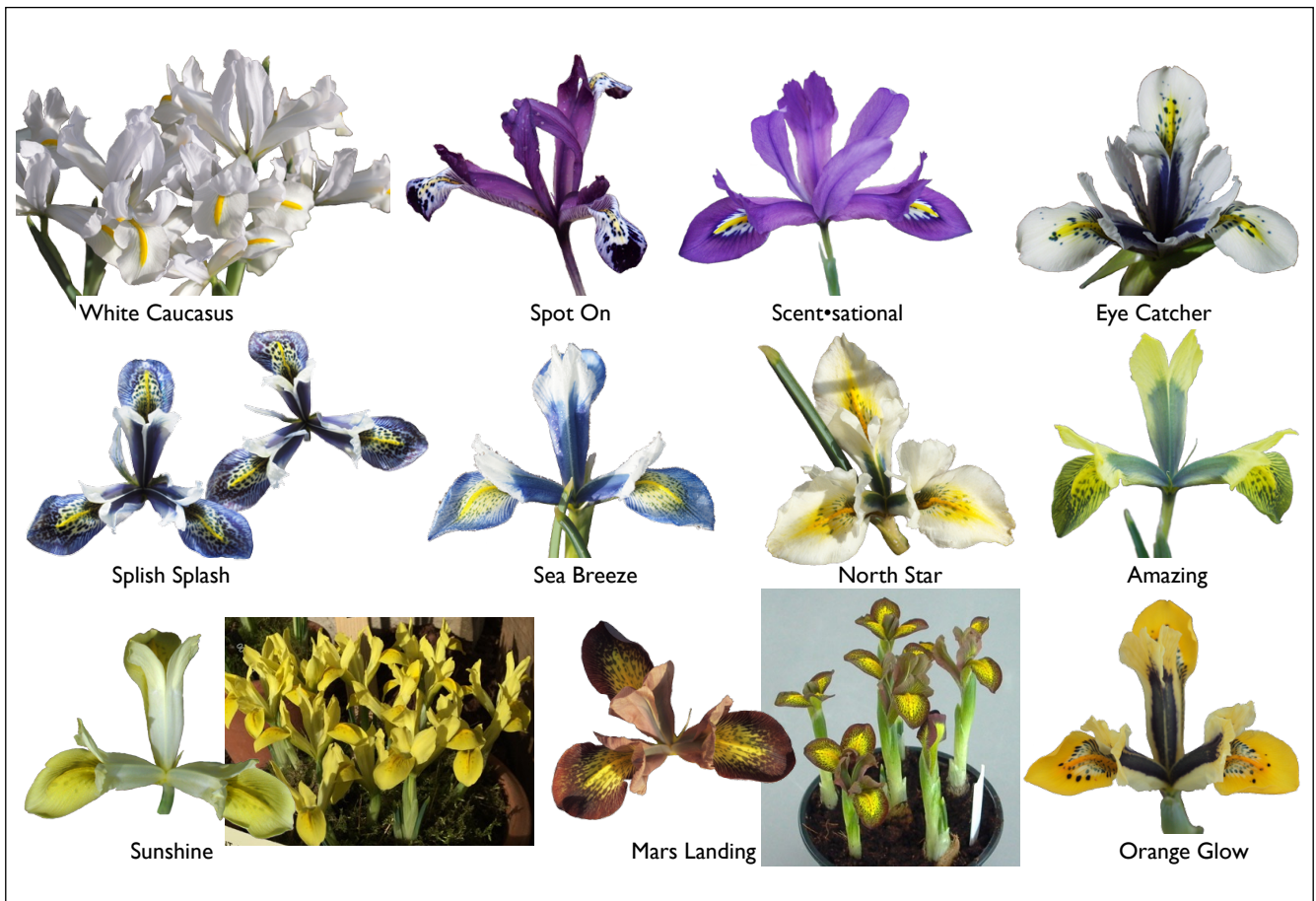


Alan McMurtrie
with 'White Caucasus'
Photo by Arie Dwarswaard

Reticulata hybrid
'Mars Landing'



Reticulata hybrid 'Sea Breeze'



Maria Gerbracht's Gardens

Maria Gerbracht
Photos by Carolyn Schaffner

Deep peach lupines, bright snapdragons, an early iris, '**Curvaceous Coral**' (Jedlicka, R. 2013), and artemisia 'Silver King' form a delightful combination.



A clump of the stunning iris '**Flash of Light**' (Thomas Johnson, R. 2008) steals the show from the lavender allium 'Globemaster' at the beginning of the hedgerow bed south of the house.



Dark purple Siberian iris '**Caesar's Brother**' (F. Cleveland Morgan, R. 1932) and 'Sum and Substance' hosta grace a mixed border along the front of the house.

In a spring email, Maria Gerbracht, WNYIS, said, "This is the best week (May 30,'16) for my tall bearded irises. I had two show queens in my garden yesterday, '**Beauty Becomes Her**' (Paul Black, R. 2010) and '**Sharp Dressed Man**' (Thomas Johnson, R. 2010). (Ed. Note: Alas, both were too early for the annual iris show)

"And to compliment the irises there are magnificent lupines. I have grown lupines for 30 years but NONE AS MAGNIFICENT as the ones in my garden now. "



TB **'Common Thread'** (Thomas Johnson, R. (2012), the most floriferous iris in Maria's garden, is a visitor favorite.

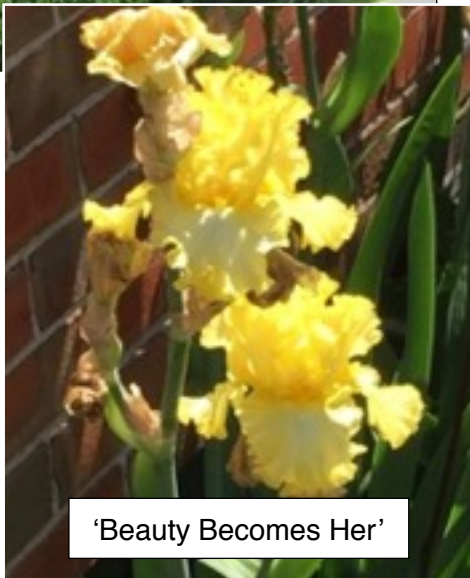
←

Allium **'Purple Sensation'** contrasts nicely with the early, long blooming BB **'Baby Bengal'** (Sutton, 1969). One stalk had 9 buds. →



← The Iris bed south of house includes a great yellow, **'Beauty Becomes Her'** (Black, 2010); the orange **'Candy Store'** (Paul Black, R. 2011), which is a poor grower; the dark **'Sharp Dressed Man'** (Johnson, R. 2010); and along the wall, the floriferous white/blue plicata **'Common Thread'** (Johnson, R. 2012).

'Sharp Dressed Man', with its sassy orange beard, is the 2016 Wister Medal winner. ↓



'Beauty Becomes Her'



'Sharp Dressed Man'

Beardless Iris and Companions in David and Dianne Baehre's Garden

on June 7, 2016

by Carolyn Schaffner

Visiting David and Dianne's garden always gives a lesson or two—from well grown and labeled bearded and beardless iris, to dreaded borers, to veggies and asparagus and to the neighbor's Great Dane dog(s).

The garden would soon be the scene of a wedding in the gazebo (not pictured) with a reception on the lawns that join the property next door. David is an artist and Dianne is a nurse so they're both meticulous gardeners.

One of their daughters is a renowned artist in Boston, Massachusetts and the other produced two grandsons who are constantly joyful and inspiring. So, the couple travel frequently (mostly during non-fishing days) between Boston, Buffalo and Ohio.

Pictured here are some things I noted during my visit.

Photos by Carolyn Schaffner



Siberian irises in a shaded area circle: '**Seneca Pastel Charm**' (Dana Borglum, R. 2004), '**Tumble Bug**' (Bauer/Coble, R. 2000), '**Seneca Viceroy**' (Dana Borglum, R. 2004) along with red hot pokers, yellow lilies, and mint.



Yellow and pink lupines bloom with Sib '**Lydia Winter**' (William McGarvey, R. 1976).



Sib '**Sugar Rush**' (Marty Schafer and Jan Sacks, R. 2009) with pink poppies and various daylilies.



Yellow Sib '**Kiss the Girl**' (Schafer/Sacks, R. 2004) and white peonies.



Sib '**How Audacious**' (Robert Hollingworth, R. 2009).



Sib '**Simon Says**' (Robert Hollingworth, R. 2007), forget-me-nots, thalictrum 'Splendide White'.



Clump of Spec-X (biversata) '**Quebelle**' (Tony Huber, R. 1998).

The ruffled Siberian iris '**Tumble Bug**' (Bob Bauer and John Coble, R. 2000), is lovely in a clump or up close.

Jodie Baehre McMenamin at the White House

RVP's note: My vision for Region 2 of the American Iris Society is not only that we celebrate the iris, but that we exist as a community of friends brought together in a common purpose. As such, I think it appropriate that we briefly share our members' life highlights. This story is presented with that thought. Enjoy! Dorothy.

Jodie McMenamin, daughter of David Baehre, a talented artist and a member of the Western New York Iris Society, attended the State Dinner at the White House on August 2, 2016 with Project STEP, a non-profit, Boston-based classical string training organization. Jodie is the Manager of Individual Gifts at Project STEP and also an accomplished fine arts painter in Boston. (JodieBaehre.com).

“Project STEP is doing extraordinary work to change the lives of Black and Latino children and to change the face of the classical music profession. The program not only provides a comprehensive classical string training education, but also offers mentorship and life-long skills that build strong character and determination. The

hard work paid off for our students with this once in a lifetime opportunity...well twice” states Jodie.

In 2014, Project Step visited the White House to receive the National Arts and Humanities Youth Program Award. This recognition is the highest achievement an after-school or an out of school program can receive from the White House. First Lady Michelle Obama and the President must have been impressed because Project STEP was asked back a second time this past August for the State Dinner honoring the United States’ 50-year relationship with Singapore.

It is incredibly rare and a tremendous honor to be invited to play at the White House State Dinner. The talented students impressed over 200 esteemed guests that attended the event including Vice President Joe Biden, Massachusetts State Senator Ed Markey, Secretary of State John F. Kerry, author Amy Tan, actors Keri Russell and Matthew Rhys, and singer Chrisette Michele, who also performed at the end of the evening.



Jodie, left, with a STEP representative and musicians in the Project STEP organization in Washington, D.C.

Jodie McMenamin
www.jodiebaehre.com



Njioma, violin; Tristan, violin; and alumni Lev, cello, and Jordan, bass, formed a quartet that greeted guests as they arrived to the White House. The quartet played pieces by Bach, Mozart and Handel.



The students also accompanied the United States Marine Band for several "strolling" songs post dinner as guests made their way from the formal dining room to the evening's entertainment room.

After the students' final performance, they along with Jodie were invited as guests to watch singer Chrisette Michele perform for the President. As the evening drew to a close, President Obama addressed his guests and thanked Project STEP by name!

"The evening was incredible and although sadly there were no irises, every room was filled with

yellow orchids and yellow roses. It was breathtaking. However, the most extraordinary part of the evening was not the flowers, but when the STEP students and I met the President and First Lady. It is ironic that something that seemingly happened so fast, not more than a few minutes, will be something I will never forget. It was an honor." –Jodie McMenamain

About Project STEP:

Project STEP recognizes that certain racial and ethnic minorities are vastly underrepresented in classical music. STEP's mission is to address this imbalance by identifying musically talented children from under-represented Boston communities and providing these children with comprehensive music and string instrument instruction. Setting the highest standards, the organization provides mentoring and performance opportunities, and creates a network of support for students, their families, and their communities. Students often stay with the rigorous program from when they are five years old until they go to college and 100% of the students that are in the program have gone on to college or conservatory for over 30 years.

ProjectSTEP.org



Read more about it here:

<https://www.facebook.com/projectSTEP/>
<http://marblehead.wickedlocal.com/news/20160811/jordan-calixto-plays-for-president>
 (Source of photos)

Jodie's Note: In 2014, the White House had blue and purple irises at the State Dinner for France.



Excitement and Fun in Buffalo in October

by Carolyn Schaffner

Buffalo's newest attraction, **Canalside**, is located in the city's downtown corridor, at the intersection of Pearl Street and Marine Drive.

As a result of prodigious commercial activity, by 1850 Buffalo was transformed from a small waterfront village into a thriving metropolis—eventually becoming the largest inland port in the nation as well as the unofficial grain capital of North America. After transportation by car and train shut down the area as a port, the area lay dormant. In 2005 the Erie Canal Harbor Development Corporation was formed, and the area was reclaimed for restoration as one of America's brightest historical treasures.



Buffalo and Erie County Botanical Gardens is housed within a historic Conservatory designed by Lord & Burnham Company, and is set in the Frederick Law Olmsted designed South Park. 2655 South Park Avenue, in Lackawanna

EVENT:<http://www.buffalogardens.com/collections/adults/products/kokedama-hanging-gardens>

October 20, 6-8:30pm
Make-it, Take-it Workshop



Maria says...

There are wonderful garden-related things to see, including gardening related attractions that are not listed on the hotel brochure:

Canalside <https://www.canalsidebuffalo.com/about-canalside/>



Erie Basin Marina Gardens

329 Erie Street, Buffalo, NY 14202
where they trial new perennials and annuals.

Buffalo and Erie County Botanical Gardens, 2655 South Park Avenue, Buffalo, NY, 14218. The orchid exhibits should be in great shape because they are getting ready for 2016 Fall Mid America Orchid Congress, November 12 & 13.

<http://www.buffalogardens.com/pages/our-gardens>

Of interest outside is the Shrub Garden with berried material and fall foliage.



Glen Park with **Glen Falls** and the historic **Water Mill** in Williamsville is not far away; a great place to take a walk. Located near Main St. and Mill St. in Williamsville. The village is also a great place to eat (e.g. Creekside Restaurant) and shop in interesting small shops.

<https://www.facebook.com/GlenParkWilliamsville>

<http://www.walkablewilliamsville.com/water-mill.html>

by Maria Gerbracht



Frank Lloyd Wright's Darwin Martin House

<http://www.bluffton.edu/homepages/facstaff/sullivanm/newyork/buffalo/martinhouse/introindex.html>

<http://www.darwinmartinhouse.org>

American Iris Society
Region-2 General Meeting Minutes
Ramada Inn Poughkeepsie, New York
Saturday, October 3, 2015

1. **Call to Order:** Dorothy Stiefel, Vice-President opened the General Meeting at 10:30 am. (President Judy Tucholski-Zon had reluctantly resigned due to family health issues and Dorothy Stiefel will lead the meeting.) Roll Call was requested.

2. **Roll Call:** Marilee Farry, Secretary, read the roster.

Present:

Dorothy Stiefel	Vice President, Archives, Bylaws, Nominating Chair
Marilee Farry	Secretary
Vaughn Sayles	Treasurer
Wendy Roller	Judge Training Chair
Kathryn Mohr	Exhibitions/Shows; Awards Chair
Neil Houghton	Membership Chair
Betty Schnellinger	Newsletter Editor
Cara Hutchings	GRIS
Carolyn Schaffner	WNYIS
Jim Robinowitz	HVIDS

Absent and Excused:

Judy Tulcholski-Zon	RVP
Linda Knipper	Creative Money Chair (Kathy Mohr as proxy)
Terrance Laurin	ONIS
Kate Brewitt	Webmaster
Jeanette E. Smith	Youth Committee Chair

Absent without Notification:

Chris Hollinshead	SOIS
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Also in Attendance

E.J. Mattson, Nathan Hutchings, Jeanine B. Nearing, Mildred Koschara, Gene Koschara, William Larson, Frank Sorbello, Chuck Chapman, Joanne Bassett

3. **Welcome/Thank You:** Dorothy welcomed guests and members. She thanked the Hudson Valley Iris and Day Lily Society for hosting this annual AIS Region 2 Fall Meeting. Dorothy mentioned that the Audit had been completed and found satisfactory. Minutes of the 2014 meeting were then requested.
4. **Minutes of October 18, 2014** were read. The 2014 minutes had been published in the 2015 Spring Newsletter. Motion was made by Wendy Roller and seconded by Cara Hutchings. Minutes accepted.
5. **Membership:** Neil Houghton has worked diligently for the past year on a plan to increase AIS membership and feels very positive about this membership plan. He started by saying that this worked for Region 7. Before his explanation of this plan, he distributed and reviewed three pages of membership statistics as background information.

- AIS Regions as of September 2015
- AIS membership Comparisons
- Membership Statistics by Regions

The membership plan would focus on increased AIS memberships which leads to more members for local societies. This plan would have a trial period, possibly January 2016 to January 2017.

AIS membership for one year is \$30.00. With this plan, the new member would pay only \$10.00 the first year, and the remaining \$20.00 would be paid jointly by the Region and the local Affiliate, each contributing \$10.00 toward the total cost of \$30.00. After the first year, the 'new' member would be an 'old' member and responsible for the \$30.00 cost. Neil felt that about \$300.00 could be set aside by Region 2 for this venture. He also felt that that if the Affiliates wanted, the plan could become a contest based on which Affiliate gains the most new AIS members. The treasurer's report was needed to see if the \$300.00 was available for this plan.

6. **Treasurer's Report:** Vaughn Sayles gave his report, as of October 2015

BALANCE:	\$9,149.15
CHECKING:	\$1,957.39
SAVINGS:	\$3,617.20
CERTIFICATE OF DEPOSIT:	\$3,574.50
Reserved from this total is	\$1,485.61 for STIS until 10/20/2017.
UNENCUMBERED BALANCE:	\$7,663.54

Vaughn suggested that 85 cents be moved from "Miscellaneous funds" to cover a small deficit due to increased cost of Website expenses in 2015. This switch of \$0.85 from was accepted by members. Vaughn presented and discussed the changes in the 2016 Budget.

	<u>2015 Budget</u>	<u>2016 Budget</u>	<u>Budget Changes</u>
Awards:	\$275	\$300	\$ 25
Membership:	\$ 20	\$320	\$300 (Set Aside for Plan)
Website:	\$150	\$175	\$ 25
			\$350 (Total Change to 2016 Budget)

The final proposed budget for 2016 is \$2,185.00 (\$1,885 without the Membership Plan).

Dorothy asked members to accept the 2016 Budget. Motion to accept the 2016 Budget with funding for the Membership Plan made by Maria Gerbracht and seconded by Betty Schnellinger. Motion passed.

The proposed 2016 budget allows the membership plan to take effect in the coming 2016 year. Vaughn Sayles moved that the proposed Membership Plan/Contest be passed. This motion was seconded by Maria Gerbracht. The majority agreed. **Motion passed.**

7. **Nomination:** Slate was presented.

Dorothy Stiefel	President, RVP
Judith Tucholski	Vice President
Vaughn Sayles	Treasurer
Marilee Farry	Secretary

8. The proposed slate of officers was put to a vote and accepted by members.

9. **By-Laws:** The updated history will be published in the Spring Newsletter.

10. **Archives:** Dorothy reported that the collection continues as usual.

11. **Awards:** Report given by Kathryn Mohr. There was one correction to the 2015 show report published in the Fall 2015 Newsletter. It should have read "Youth member Cora Roller's entry SDB 'Captive Sun' was 2nd Runner-up and her entry MTB 'Smarty Pants' won Best of Section, Historic. Copies of the corrected report were available.

12. **Judges Training:** Report given by Wendy Roller. She stated as of July 31, 2015, all Region 2 judges had completed their three-year training requirements and were in good standing as AIS judges. She mentioned James E. Burke had died in the past year and will be very much missed. The members gave Wendy a round of applause and commended her for her excellent work.

13. **Membership:** Neil reported that his Membership Plan will go into effect. If Affiliates want to have a contest with new AIS members, they are to decide among themselves.

14. **Newsletter:** Betty announced that it is printed and sent to all members, either by e-mail or hard copy in the spring and fall, and the summer Newsletter is sent only by e-mail. Marilee asked that a hard copy be sent to her for the secretary's notebook. It was agreed. Dorothy directed the Newsletter be sent to any local clubs. Chuck Chapman made the above motion and it was seconded by Maria Gerbracht. **Motion passed.**

15. **Website:** Kate's report stated that the ONIS annual meeting will be on November 1 in Port Perry, ON, Canada.

16. **Show dates and Awards:** ONIS—TBA PASS; HVIDS—May 21, Blenis; CHIS—June 4, McGarvey; GRIS—TBA, Magdalen; WNYIS—June 11, Peckham; SOIS—TBA, PASS.

17. **2016 Fall Meeting Hosts:** WNYIS will host in 2016 and will invite the Canadian Societies to assist.

Wendy Roller moved to **close the meeting** and Jim Robinowitz seconded the motion. **Passed.**

The meeting was adjourned at 11:30 a.m.

Submitted by Marilee Farry

2016 Membership Challenge AIS Region 2

**PLEASE NOTE: THIS PROGRAM WILL BE IN EFFECT FOR THE CALENDAR YEAR 2016
New AIS Members who joined during 2015 will not be eligible.**

Goal: To increase Region 2 membership by 50% by year-end

Cost: Up to \$300 for 2016, Contest winner reimbursement will affect 2017 budget

Dates: January 1, 2016 through December 31, 2016

Description: By sharing the costs of promoting AIS membership, we hope to get 30 new AIS members in Region 2 during 2016. New AIS members (no membership in the last 10 years) will pay only \$10 for their first year of general membership; their other costs will be split between Region 2 and their AIS Region 2 Affiliate; the highest achieving AIS Region 2 Affiliate will have an additional incentive.

During 2016, all new AIS members who join a participating Region 2 Affiliate will pay only \$10 for their first year of AIS membership. For each new regular member, Region 2 will reimburse the club \$10 toward that membership, when the affiliate provides an additional \$10 toward that same membership.

- “New” members are defined as those that have not been AIS members in the past 10 years.
- The Region 2 contribution counts toward AIS dues only, and does not affect local dues.
- Each affiliate will need to show proof of their contribution toward the membership, to be reimbursed for the regional promotion.
- This offer includes AIS general memberships (\$10 off from affiliate, \$10 off from region; new member pays \$10 or more toward 1-year, 3-year or life AIS membership, single or dual) OR AIS e-memberships (\$5 from affiliate, \$5 from region, \$5 from member). One person gets one discount, even if they join both ways.

Contest

All Region 2 Affiliates will receive the matching incentive funds (\$5 or \$10 when matched by the affiliate). The affiliate with the most new AIS members in 2016 will be reimbursed for their \$10 or \$5 contributions in 2017 so there will be no cost for this promotion for the winning affiliate.

For the purposes of the contest each new member, regular or e-member will be counted as one person but no one will be counted twice. That is to say that any single membership will constitute one person and any dual membership will be counted as 2 people. A person who joins as both a regular and an e-member will be counted as 1 new member.

The appropriate officer of each Region 2 Affiliate will identify new members aligned with their affiliate. For AIS general membership the affiliate will submit \$20 toward the membership to AIS with a payment of \$10 or more from the member (\$10 and \$5 respectively for AIS e-membership). When the AIS monthly report from their Membership Secretary reflects the new membership, the AIS Region 2 treasurer will send reimbursement to the affiliate.

Late-breaking, wonderful news from Dave Baehre:

The Western New York Iris Society is proud to announce the we have five new members who have jumped on board to become our newest AIS members as of this fall issue, newsletter.

Please welcome

**Annette Kuhn,
Joyce Barbalato,
Christine Weaton,
Lee Schreiber and
Maybeth Gugino.**

Some of these ladies have already shared their time and talent to WNYIS by exhibiting in our Spring Iris Show and have helped with our annual summer Iris Sale.

Some benefits of membership in the American Iris Society include a subscription to the AIS Bulletin which is published four times per year. We also have a Regional 2 news letter. Members are encouraged participate in events such as local AIS sanctioned iris shows and the annual AIS Convention. WNYIS has iris sales/auctions, garden tours and other iris focused events.

This fall the Western New York Iris Society will host the annual Regional Meeting. We hope you can take time out of your busy schedules join in and experience some of these events. We thank you, for all you do to support our local WNYIS and Region 2 of the American Iris Society.