

REGION 2 OF THE AMERICAN IRIS SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER

SPRING 2010



Region 2 of the AIS, Spring 2010 Newsletter

Table of Contents

Page 1	Officers, Committee and Affiliate Chairpersons
Page 2	RVP Message
Page 3	2009 Fall Meeting Minutes
Page 6	Treasurers' Report
Page 8	2010 Fall Meeting
Page 8	Show & Exhibition Report
Page 8	Creative Money Report
Page 9	Judges Training Report
Page 11	Affiliate Reports
Page 18	2009 Region 2 Fall Meeting
Page 20	"Iris Weekend" Certificate of Proclamation
Page 21	Anna Rettig Awarded Conroe
Page 22	An Irisarian's Challenge to Winter
Page 23	Anna Kuhri Rettig
Page 24	Region 2 Favorite Irises, AIS Symposium 2010
Page 25	AIS Dealing with Deficit Budget
Page 26	A Bit of Region 2 Iris History
Page 28	Dr. E. Roy Epperson

The Newsletter of Region 2 of the American Iris Society is published twice a year and is mailed free to all members of the American Iris Society residing in Region 2 (New York State). Please send address changes to the editor promptly, to help us reduce re-mailing costs. Copy deadlines are Feb. 15 for the Spring issue, and Aug. 15 for the Fall issue. Permission is granted to reproduce articles, with proper attribution, unless otherwise noted.

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REGION 2 OF THE AMERICAN IRIS SOCIETY

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COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

Archives	Dorothy Stiefel , 260 Michigan Hollow RD, Spencer, NY 14883 (607) 589-7465 Irisacher@aol.com
Bylaws	Judy Tucholski-Zon , 130 Cresthaven DR, Cheektowaga, NY 14225 (716) 836-2573 Irisjudy@aol.com
Creative Money	Mildred Horak , 19 Morningside DR, Cortland, NY 13045 (607) 753-0957 Milliehorak@hotmail.com
Exhibitions	Judy Tucholski-Zon (see ByLaws)
Judges Training	Wendy Roller , 158 Lida Lane, Rochester, NY 14616-4133 (585) 621-8985 Gwr67@peoplepc.com
Membership	Donna James (see Treasurer)
Newsletter Editor	Dorothy Stiefel (see Archives)
Youth Committee	Janette Smith , 297 Atkinson RD, Pulaski, NY 13142-3158 Jes89@cornell.edu
Webmaster	Vaughn Sayles (see President & RVP)

SOCIETY AFFILIATE CHAIRPERSONS

CHIS – Capital-Hudson Iris S.	Linda Montanaro , 15 Wiltshire Way, Schenectady, NY 12309 (518) 377-4987 Linda.montanaro@gmail.com
CNYIS – Central New York Iris S.	Donna James (see Treasurer)
GRIS – Greater Rochester Iris S.	Donna Lowry , 9660 Ridge RD, Brockport, NY 14420 (585) 637-6025 Donnadonlowry@aol.com
HVIDS – Hudson Valley Iris & Daylily S.	Jim Robinowitz , 10 Baldwin Road, Poughkeepsie, NY 12603 (845) 454-6415 Jmrobinowitz@hotmail.com
STIS – Southern Tier Iris S.	John Colley (See Vice President)
WNYIS – Western New York Iris S.	Maria Gerbracht , 5064 Clearview DR, Williamsville, NY 14221 (716) 632-8069 Mrgerbracht@verizon.net

FROM YOUR REGIONAL VICE PRESIDENT

Is it spring yet? This is my third spring greeting for the AIS Region 2 Newsletter. Back in 2008 I was just learning what it was like to be an RVP and now it's 2010 and my final year serving the region in this capacity. It certainly has been an experience and most of it has been good.

The 2010 AIS Affiliation – yearly recertification of AIS affiliates – has been completed thanks to the conscientious efforts of the Affiliate Presidents and some of their helpers. When the Region 2 AIS Affiliation was completed in 2008, there were 147 AIS members residing in the counties represented by our six affiliates. The membership distribution was CHIS – 20, CNYIS – 24, GRIS – 26, HVIDS – 22, STIS – 27 and WNYIS – 28. As of February 1, 2010, there were 113 AIS members with the following membership distribution: CHIS – 18, CNYIS – 15, GRIS – 20, HVIDS – 12, STIS – 24 and WNYIS – 24. All of the affiliates in our Region have experienced a decline in membership as has AIS nationwide.

Declining membership and increasing costs are a concern at all levels of AIS and Region 2 is no exception. Your Region 2 Board of Executives over the past three years has been trying to hold costs down while proposing the same budget. We have been successful in keeping our expenditures lower than the revenue we've taken in, but the contributions from Affiliates have started to decline. If this trend continues, some budget cutting will be necessary in the near future. We are fortunate as volunteer organizations that we have a number of dedicated individuals who contribute a lot of time and effort to their clubs and Region 2. Many of the services the region provides (awards, newsletters, website, funding for the fall meeting) require money and we may soon reach a point at the region level where a lack of cash will limit what we are able to do.

The Region 2 Budget will be one of the challenges facing my replacement. My term of office ends this fall and we need someone to step forward to serve Region 2 and its affiliates. The current Region 2 Vice President has indicated that he will not be able to step into the office of RVP for 2011. It's not too early to start looking for someone to be a candidate for this position. If you are interested and willing to serve, please notify the nominating committee chairperson, John Colley. Good leadership is important for any organization and we have a lot of talented members who certainly would be great RVPs. Hopefully, one of you will be ready this fall for your chance to lead Region 2.

The election for next year's officers will be at our Fall Meeting which is being hosted this year by the Capital Hudson Iris Society. Marty Schafer and Jan Sacks from Joe Pye Weed's Gardens, Carlisle, Massachusetts, will be the featured speakers and provide judges training. Please mark the date, October 16, 2010, on your calendars. We hope you will join us there for fellowship, good food, guest speakers, awards, judges training and our annual Region 2 business meeting.

Vaughn Sayles
Region 2 RVP

AMERICAN IRIS SOCIETY - REGION 2
ANNUAL FALL MEETING MINUTES

Saturday, October 3, 2009
Holiday Inn, 542 Route 9
Fishkill, NY 12524-2224

1. **Call to Order:** 10:10 am RVP Vaughn Sayles called meeting to order.
2. **Roll Call:** Taken by Sylvia Borglum.

Present:

Vaughn Sayles	RVP/President-Region 2 & Webmaster
John Colley	Vice President-Region 2 & Nominating
Sylvia Borglum	Acting Secretary
Ron James	Co-Treasurer
Donna James	Co-Treasurer, Affiliate Chair-Central New York Iris Society and Membership
Jim Robinowitz	Affiliate Chair-Hudson Valley Iris & Daylily Society
Dorothy Stiefel	Newsletter Editor & Archives & Affiliate Chair-Southern Tier Iris Society
Maria Gerbracht	Affiliate Chair-Western New York Iris Society and representing Exhibitions
Mildred Horak	Creative Money
Wendy Roller	Judges Training

Absent and Excused:

Linda Montanaro	Affiliate Chair-Capital-Hudson Iris Society
Gertrude Hauck	Affiliate Chair-Greater Rochester Iris Society
Judy Tucholski	Bylaws, Exhibitions
Janette Smith	Youth

3. **Welcome/Thank You & Additions/corrections to October 18, 2008 fall meeting minutes:** RVP Vaughn Sayles welcomed 19 people to the meeting. Thank you expressed to this year's officers/affiliates chairs/committee chairs for all their hard work. No additions/corrections to above stated minutes. Motion made by Ron James, seconded by John Schueler to accept minutes. Carried.

4. **Treasurer's Report:** Ron James states the current balance is \$3,833.24. \$679.00 came in from the Fall Meeting Silent Auction with another \$35.00 due yet. \$1,830.59 was expended so far this year, \$1,579.00 has come in from Region 2 clubs (2 clubs have yet to donate: possibly \$1,000.00 from that) for a possible total of \$2,579.00. \$800.00 will be expended for the Fall Meeting. The fiscal books are January-December.

5. **Affiliate Chair Reports:**

- A. **CHIS:** No report.
- B. **CNYIS:** Report handed out; Donna states that CNYIS agrees to host the AIS Region 2 Fall Meeting for 2010 if CHIS does not host.
- C. **GRIS:** Report handed out, Wendy Roller read the report.
- D. **HVIDS:** Report handed out. Jim Robinowitz states it has been a good year with good meetings. Fundraising is not as robust this year, but they had two (2) sales.
- F. **STIS:** Dorothy Stiefel states sales were down this year, but they took in enough.
- G. **WNYIS:** Maria Gerbracht read report. George Eisenhardt has died. They had a show featuring historic iris on June 6th with 101 stalks plus designs and education exhibitions. They

also had a show on July 5th for Japanese iris and Icabana designs. Club member Dave Baehre has developed a flyer for “pre-sale” iris that he hands out and it has proven to be very helpful in successful sales for the club. They also advertise in the Upstate Gardeners Journal. She also states that Buffalo is hosting the 2012 Master Gardens show.

6. Committee Reports:

A. Archives: Dorothy Stiefel states that she just received a couple of boxes of materials from GRIS area. She does request the donor address so an acknowledgement can be sent.

B. Bylaws: No report.

C. Creative Money: Mildred Horak states a big Thank You to HVIDS for their help. There was \$714.00 profit this year.

D. Exhibitions & Awards: A report from Judy Tucholski states there were 6 shows with 442 entries this year.

E. Judges Training: Wendy Roller handed out report and states 1.) If an area society is planning Judges Training, please let her know by the beginning of May as she needs to prepare the permissions for classroom and/or in-garden experiences. 2.) Region 2 judges and students earned 150+ hours of training this last year. A Master Judges has at least 15 years of experience and we have (5). We also have fifteen (15) Garden/Exhibitor Judges and one (1) G/E Judge being re-instated – John Schueler. E. J. Mattson is to become an Apprentice Judge.

F. Membership: Donna James states that there were problems with Exhibition Show Awards being available last year, but it is being worked on. Talk to Tom Gormley if you had problems and he will advise. She also states there has been a decline in membership.

G. Newsletter Editor: Dorothy Stiefel reminds us that Newsletter information submitting dates are: Feb. 15th for Spring Newsletter and August 15th for Fall Newsletter. She states Thank You for all the info and help.

H. Youth: No report.

I. Nominating: John Colley states Thank You to Mildred Horak for her prior work as Secretary. Thank You to Sylvia Borglum for filling in for Mildred today. Nominations were listed in the Fall 2009 Newsletter and consist of:

RVP	Vaughn Sayles	Vice President	John Colley
Secretary	Sylvia Borglum	Treasurer	Donna & Ron James

New Business:

7. Election of officers for 2010: Nominations as listed above. No nominations offered from the floor. Motion made by Helen Schueler, seconded by John Schueler that the Secretary be authorized to cast one (1) ballot. Carried.

8. Show dates for 2010 and Region 2 Awards

A. Spring Show Rotation: reviewed

1. HVIDS-May 23rd - Peckham
2. GRIS – No show
3. CNYIS-July 3rd - McGarvey
4. STIS- No show -
5. WNYIS-June 5th - Blenis
6. CHIS- May 29th - Magdalen

B. Sale/Auction Dates: reviewed

1. CHIS- ?
2. HVIDS- July 31st, August 14th -15th
3. CNYIS- August 8th sale
4. WNYIS- August 7th sale

5. STIS- August 7th sale
6. GRIS- July 25th sale

9. Budget for 2010: Ron James states there are no changes for 2010 budget. The maximum for projected expenditures is \$3, 815.00. Motion made by John Schueler, seconded by Maria Gerbracht to accept budget as presented. Carried.

10. Additional New Business:

A. Rotation for hosting Fall Meeting: Helen Schueler states CNYIS is one (1) year out for hosting the meeting, CHIS would be next in rotation. Vaughn Sayles states he is willing to contact CHIS regarding the matter. He was not aware there was a rotation for hosting the meeting. Donna James suggested that possibly the Region 2 meeting could be downsized.

B. Membership information: Maria Gerbracht asks if we have handout forms. Sometimes we wait 6-12 months to hear about new members. It is stated that we can go to the AIS website to look up information.

C. Youth Members: John Colley states that STIS has 2 Youth members (ages 13 and 16 years old) and he asks for ideas about activities to encourage them in. Suggestions: visit their gardens, visit others gardens, teach hybridizing.

D. Citation: Certificate of Proclamation by Joan Pagonos, Supervisor of the Town of Fishkill was read at dinner. October 2nd and 3rd of 2009 is proclaimed "Iris Weekend" in the Town of Fishkill. Susan McDonald states the Silent Auction items went along with the Citation theme. Thank You to all.

E. Membership Fees: Maria Gerbracht presents idea of expanding membership fees to "Local Only". She states this seems to be a trend being used to lower costs and increase local club memberships such as "WNY Iris & Perennial Society." Discussion followed. Is noted that in a local daylily/hosta group about 1/3 of the members belong to the national groups. If we can expand membership many social and educational connections are made – all at a lower cost. Maria states WNYIS is discussing this issue. It is also noted that with national membership the member also receives the Quarterly Bulletins. Also on the national level there are various benefit umbrellas such as tax issues, insurance, etc. These items are needed for coverage with tours, shows, sales, etc. Helen Schueler states there is no reason the local club cannot solicit people on a local, social level and then in a couple of years they can be encouraged to join at the national level. Each club needs to have at least 10 AIS members, others can be non-members. Each club has bylaws. She had a question regarding ESIS (Empire State Iris Society). This issue was addressed in 2000 by Region 2. There is no longer an ESIS. Region 2 of AIS has its own bylaws. Each club within the Region has their own bylaws. This is a must for the tax exempt status. Bob Plank can be contacted for further information on this. For New York State: Region 2 plus Affiliates CNYIS and WNYIS are tax exempt.

11. Adjournment: Motion made by John Schueler and seconded by Jim Robinowitz to adjourn meeting. Carried at 12:27 pm.

Respectfully submitted, Sylvia Borglum, Acting Secretary

AIS REGION 2 TREASURERS' REPORT

Ronald & Donna James, Treasurers

REGION 2 ASSETS FOR 2010

Balances as of 12/31/2009

Checking Account	\$4,628.26
Certificate of Deposit	\$3,467.56
Total Assets	\$8,095.82

REGION 2 APPROVED BUDGET FOR 2010

<u>Projected Expenditures</u>	<u>Budgeted</u>
Archives	\$50.00
Awards	\$225.00
Judges Training	\$50.00
Membership	\$100.00
Newsletter (2 mailings)	\$900.00
RVP (miscellaneous)	\$100.00
RVP (Spring AIS Board Meeting)	\$600.00
RVP (Fall AIS Board Meeting)	\$600.00
Treasurer	\$20.00
Secretary	\$20.00
Creative Money	\$0.00
Youth Membership	\$100.00
Fall Meeting	\$800.00
Website	\$150.00
Miscellaneous Unbudgeted	\$100.00
Total Projected Expenses	\$3,815.00

REGION 2 REVENUE FOR 2009

<u>Revenue</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Affiliate Contributions	\$1,900.00
CHIS \$500	
CNYIS \$200	
HVIDS \$300	
GRIS \$100	
STIS \$500	
WNYIS \$300	
 Silent Auction	 \$714.00
Interest Income	\$53.62
 Total Revenue	 \$2,667.62

REGION 2 BUDGET AND EXPENDITURES FOR 2009 Expenditures from 11/2009 – 12/31/2009

<u>Expenses</u>	<u>Budgeted</u>	<u>Actual</u>
Archives	\$50.00	\$0.00
Awards	\$225.00	\$213.88
Judges Training	\$50.00	\$47.22
Membership	\$100.00	\$0.00
Newsletter (spring)	\$450.00	\$400.00
Newsletter (fall)	\$450.00	\$342.69
RVP (miscellaneous)	\$100.00	\$5.28
RVP (Spring AIS Board Meeting)	\$600.00	\$127.15
RVP (Fall AIS Board Meeting)	\$600.00	\$0.00
Treasurer	\$20.00	\$0.00
Secretary	\$20.00	\$0.00
Creative Money	\$0.00	\$0.00
Youth Membership	\$100.00	\$0.00
Fall Meeting	\$800.00	\$800.00
Website	\$150.00	\$134.35
Miscellaneous Unbudgeted	\$100.00	\$0.00
 Total Expenses 2009	 \$3,815.00	 \$2,070.57

SAVE THE DATE

OCTOBER 16, 2010

REGION 2 ANNUAL FALL MEETING

HYBRIDIZERS MARTY SCHAFFER AND JAN SACKS

HOSTED BY CAPITAL HUDSON IRIS SOCIETY

AWARDS AND EXHIBITIONS

Judy Tucholski-Zon

A recap of the 2009 Iris season gives the following statistics:

1. 6 shows were held from May 31st to July 4th.
2. A total of 442 entries with very few duplicate cultivars were displayed.
3. 51 exhibitors entered.
4. Designs were exhibited in two shows.
5. All the Region 2 awards will be presented at the awards ceremony at the Fall Meeting.
6. The best specimen of all bearded shows was a tall-bearded iris.
7. The best specimen in the beardless shows was a Japanese iris.
8. Local awards were reported only from WNYIS
 - a. Mary Pat Engel Award for the best pink iris
 - b. Wirtz-Rettig Award for the best Japanese iris

CREATIVE MONEY

Millie Horak

THANK YOU!

Dear Iris Lovers—A big THANK YOU to all of you who brought items for our Silent Auction last fall, and also a big THANK YOU to all who participated in the sale by purchasing iris and other items.

Also, a big THANK YOU to members of the Hudson Valley Iris & Daylily Society who worked the auction tables and tallied receipts. Due to everyone's help we had a very successful auction.

Spring is a good time to pick up iris items in specialty shops and even in dollar stores. Remember this is Region 2's only fund raising activity and the funds are needed to keep us going. Hopefully we will have another successful auction with everyone pitching in.

If anyone has any ideas on raising money, please let me know. Thanks!

**REGION 2 JUDGES and STUDENT JUDGES
Status Roster – as of October 1, 2009**

<u>Master</u>	<u>Garden/Exhibition</u>	<u>Apprentice</u>	<u>Candidates</u>
David Baehre	Joanne Bassett	Howard Dash	Marilee Farry
Maria Gerbracht	John Colley		Patricia Kluczynski
Wendy K. Roller	Clayton Crandall		E.J.Mattson
Helen B. Schueler	Diane Crandall		Mary Urist
Dorothy Stiefel	John H. Heimke		
	Donna James	<u>Seeking</u>	
	Ronald James	<u>Reinstatement</u>	
	Eugene Koschara	John Schueler	
	Mildred Koschara		
	Floyd Reitzel		
	Vaughn Sayles		
	Mary Jane Shanley		
	Janette Smith		
	Frank Sorbello		
	Judith Tucholski-Zon		

THE YEAR 2009 IN REVIEW:

During the period August 1, 2008 – July 31, 2009, Region 2 judges and student judges collectively earned over 150 hours of credit for attending classroom and in-garden training sessions. The training sessions were held in Kansas, Massachusetts, Minnesota, New Mexico and New York.

The training sessions offered by Region 2 were as follows:

1. During the 2008 Region 2 Annual Fall Meeting weekend, two classroom sessions were taught by Ginny Spoon.
2. Two in-garden training classes on early blooming iris and Japanese iris were conducted by Donna James and Joanne Bassett.
3. Three apprentice and student judge in-garden sessions were led by David Baehre, Maria Gerbracht, and Frank Sorbello.
4. Two show bench tutoring sessions for two apprentice judges from Region 16 (Canada) and two student judges from Region 2 were taught by Joanne Bassett, Maria Gerbracht, Donna James and Judith Tucholski-Zon.

If approval is granted at the AIS Board Meeting, John Schueler will be reinstated as a Garden/Exhibition judge and E.J. Mattson will be appointed as an Apprentice Judge (effective January 1, 2010).

SPRING 2010 JUDGES TRAINING IN REGION 2

So far, one judges training opportunity has been scheduled in Region 2 during 2010. The course is in the planning stages. The finalized information on the session will be mailed to American Iris Society Master Judges, Garden/Exhibition Judges, Apprentice Judges, and Candidates for Judgeship in May, 2010.

Exhibiting Iris (2 hours classroom credit)

Saturday, May 22, 2010, 10 a.m. – 12 noon

This session is being sponsored by the Central New York Iris Society. The course will be presented by Helen Schueler at her home, located at 2620 Lamson Road, Phoenix, NY 13135. The course will cover rating bloomstalks and flowers; the grooming, transportation and presentation of bloomstalks; understanding show schedules; and the criteria iris judges use when judging bloomstalks. Some time will be spent in the garden in order to evaluate flowers and bloomstalks. Please let Helen know if you are planning to attend the course.

(telephone – 315-695-6777) *Note: This course is open to the general public.*

Please let me know if any other judges training sessions are being planned within the region during the year 2010 (telephone – 585-621-8985 or e-mail – gwr67@peoplepc.com). The deadline to include the information in the May mailing to the judges is Thursday, April 15th.

REGION 2 AFFILIATE REPORTS

CAPITAL HUDSON IRIS SOCIETY

President: Linda Montanaro
Secretary: Virginia Dorwaldt
Newsletter Editor: Virginia Dorwaldt

Vice President: Dan Maier
Treasurer: Donald Salhoff
Assistant Editor: Euthemia Matsoukas

2010 Calendar of Events

Sunday, March 21st, CHIS Meeting, East Greenbush Library, 1:30 pm., Mike Shadrack, speaker. **A Wander Through English Gardens:** A lighthearted tour through the gardening obsession in the UK showing famous as well as private gardens.

Sunday, April 18th, CHIS Meeting, East Greenbush Library, 1:30 p.m., Claudia Kostler, Garden Director and Linda Sercus, Executive Director, Presby Memorial Iris Garden will **talk about Presby Memorial Iris Garden** and show slides. Our bus trip this year will be to Presby (see May 30).

Saturday, May 1st, **Siberian Iris Dig** at John Heimke's.

Saturday, May 29th, **Iris Show** at Colonie Center (location to be confirmed).

Sunday, May 30th, **Bus Trip to Presby Memorial Iris Garden** in Montclair, New Jersey.

Saturday, June 5th (raindate Sunday, June 6th), **Garden tours and barbecue**, sites to be announced.

Sunday, June 13th, **Siberian Iris and Perennial Sale**, Main Square Shoppes, 318 Delaware Avenue, Delmar. 9 a.m. – 12 noon.

Saturday, July 31st (tentative) **Rhizome Dig Party** at Euthemia's, 13 Hartwood Road, Delmar.

Saturday, August 7th, 9:00 – noon, **Iris Rhizome Sale** at Faddegon's Nursery.

CENTRAL NEW YORK IRIS SOCIETY

President: Donna James
Secretary: Ronald James

Vice President: Helen Schueler
Treasurer: Janette Smith

2010 Calendar of Events

March 4-7 – **Central NY Bloom Show** at Syracuse OnCenter.

March 19 - CNYIS Meeting-7PM-"**Work Night**", Ron & Donna James Home.

April 16 - CNYIS Meeting and Supper-5:30 PM-**Iris Presentation**-Dana Borglum, Ron & Donna James' Home.

May 21 - CNYIS Meeting-7PM-Meeting place TBA.

May 22 - CNYIS-Region 2-Judges Training-Helen Schueler's home-10AM, CNYIS & Hosta-Training-Donna James' home-2PM.

June 18 - Garden Tours-TBA.

July 3 - CNYIS Japanese Flower Show-Sandy Creek Fair - CNYIS Cut Leaf Host Show-Sandy Creek Fair.

August 8 - CNYIS & Hosta Club –Annual Sale, Auction & Picnic-10-3. RSVP-Donna James.

September 17 - Election of Officers.

CNYIS Spring 2010 Report, Donna James

Greetings from the members of Central New York Iris Society to all Region 2. CNYIS continues to be a viable small dedicated group. We are still working very hard to maintain and build our membership. We are going to have a big local membership drive this spring and summer. People are interested in getting more for their “buck,” so in the following months CNYIS will form a local group. The club will be divided between iris and hosta. We will for the first time have local club dues.

On May 22 at 10:00 AM at the home of John & Helen Schueler, CNYIS/Region 2 will hold a judge's training for ALL on How to Exhibit Iris. The class will show ALL how to pick and groom a winner for an iris show.

On the same day at 2 PM at the home of Ron & Donna James a class for ALL on Exhibiting at a Cut Leaf Hosta Show will be held. These trainings are to help both the beginner and advanced flower grower learn some “neat” tricks of the trade. See you all there!!!

Ron and I have been busy planning and working for spring. We are repairing & painting buildings for the train garden, making lots of garden signs and etc. We are planting a new Hosta area with a huge formal circle of ‘Immortality’ irises as a focal point for the garden. We have always had two bloom seasons from this iris in our area. We love our hosta, but iris will always be our first love. Come visit us! Happy Gardening!

GREATER ROCHESTER IRIS SOCIETY

President: Donna Lowry
Secretary: Jacqueline Hyde

Vice President: Cara Hutchings
Treasurer: Wesley Hyde

2010 Calendar of Events

February 21, Discussion of changes that will be beneficial to the club and a program entitled “A Refresher Course in Irises” by Donna Lowry.

April 18, Presentation on **Japanese Iris at the 2008 National Convention in Kalamazoo, Michigan**, by Vaughn Sayles.

GRIS 2009 Fall Report, Gert Hauck.

March, 2009, meeting was held on March 8, 2009. Eleven people attended. Program was done by Master Gardener Sharon Rosenblum on Soil, “Beyond PH”.

April, 2009 meeting was held on April 19, 2009. Thirteen people attended. The power point program was put on by Ginny Byers, of her daylily garden. She donated many irises at this time that were being discarded by a personal friend of hers. Several people took them home for our sale.

May 31, GRIS visited the garden of members Cara and Nate Hutchings in the city of Rochester. Thirteen people attended. Three went out for dinner afterwards.

June 21, two people visited the Louisiana Friendship Garden at Highland Park.

On Saturday, July 18, six people dug irises from the garden of Ginny Byers, who gladly donated whatever we dug out.

On Sunday, July 26 our annual sale happened at the Cornell Cooperative extension. The profits were meager compared to other years. Our leftovers were donated to the WNYIS, who passed all the leftovers along to the Frank Lloyd Wright House in Buffalo known as Graycliff where they are renovating the landscaping. It is now called the Martin House.

The September 27 meeting was held and 13 people attended. We had no nominations for officers. No one was interested or willing to step forward. Health problems and family situations have hampered our membership.

I will be stepping down at the next meeting in November. Perhaps GRIS will need your help, Vaughn.

I have begun using e-mail for newsletters and all communication. There are just a few people who still need hard copy.

GRIS Spring 2010 Report, Donna Lowry

In November 2009, member Dana Borglum was our speaker. Dana did an excellent presentation on peonies, and he and Sylvia brought door prizes for everyone. All present had a wonderful time.

We are looking forward to our first meeting of the New Year on Sunday, February 21, 2010. Due to the uncertainty of the weather, member Donna Lowry will give a PowerPoint presentation, 'A Refresher Course in Irises'.

Our meeting on Sunday, April 18, 2010 will feature Vaughn Sayles, current RVP of Region 2. Vaughn will be speaking about the new 'pseudata' irises and the National Japanese Iris Convention in Kalamazoo, Michigan in 2008. Our meetings are held in the auditorium of the Cornell Cooperative Extension of Monroe County, 241 Highland Avenue, Rochester, New York beginning at 2:00 p.m. All are welcome to come.

Anyone interested in a road-trip? Don't forget the Friendship Garden in Highland Park, Rochester. The Louisiana irises bloom about the third and/or fourth week in June. Admission to the park is free.

Our public sale of irises will be July 25, 2010 in the parking lot of the Cornell Cooperative Extension of Monroe County, 241 Highland Avenue, Rochester, New York from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Donations are welcome. Buyers are welcome too!

HUDSON VALLEY IRIS AND DAYLILY SOCIETY

President: Jim Robinowitz
Secretary: Perla Kaufman
Hospitality: Betty Gilbert

Vice President: Georgette Martin
Treasurer: Frank Sorbello
Webmaster: Jennifer Wagner

2010 Calendar of Events

March 7, HVIDS Meeting “Composting” Our first meeting of 2010 will feature Mr. Frank Alquist, of Kingston, who will provide the group with information on composting.

April 11, HVIDS Meeting “Daylilies” Guest speaker Janet Hong, member of the Tidewater Daylily Society and owner of Pine Ridge Perennials in Chesapeake, VA, will speak to the group about daylilies. Community Room, Poughkeepsie Galleria.

May 2, HVIDS Meeting “Preparing Irises for Show” Bruce Baird and John Heimke, master iris growers and members of CHIS, have graciously agreed to walk us through the process of preparing our irises for the annual Iris Show, including selecting irises from your garden, transporting them to the show site, cleaning and tending them, and ensuring they look their best when the judges come around and peer so intently at them.

May 22, HVIDS OPEN GARDENS.

May 23, 14th Annual AIS Affiliated HVIDS Judged Iris Show and Public Exhibition, Center Court, Poughkeepsie Galleria, Poughkeepsie, NY.

July 16-18, “Daylilies, a Capital Affair” AHS Regional 4 Meeting, hosted by the Hudson-Adirondack Daylily Society, at the Sovereign Best Western, 1228 Western Ave., Albany, NY. There will be tours of the gardens of John and Avis Randall, Marge Moon, Carol Volungus, Audreh Zeh, and the Cornell Cooperative Extension Gardens of Albany.

July 25, 10th Annual HVIDS Daylily Show & Public Exhibition, Center Court, Poughkeepsie Galleria.

July 31, Iris Rhizome and Daylily Fan Sale, Adams Fairacre Farm, Route 44, Poughkeepsie, NY.

Aug 14/15, Iris Rhizome and Daylily Fan Sale, Center Court, Poughkeepsie Galleria.

HVIDS Fall 2009 Report, Jim Robinowitz

In 2009, the HVIDS provided its members with many educational and enjoyable experiences including a series of excellent spring speakers. We were blessed with a beautiful day to visit three lovely and distinctly different open member gardens: Chuck and Perla Kaufman, Poughkeepsie, Frank and Rosemary Sorbello, Newburgh, Sondra Tillou and Phil Volpe, Kingston – mucho kudos to you all. Since the HVIDS is both an iris and daylily club, we annually present two public shows. Our iris show on May 31 was a success. We had three great judges from CHIS. In July, we had our annual daylily exhibition, followed by our annual summer fundraising activities which included: iris rhizome and daylily fan sales at Adams Fairacre Farms, in Poughkeepsie on August 1, and on the following Saturday and Sunday, the Poughkeepsie Galleria. Special thanks go to the Sorbellos, the Dashes and Jennifer Wagner for their generosity in allowing the club to dig in their gardens for our sales. Additionally, Frank Sorbello traveled to Kinderhook three times to participate in the Farmers Market assisted on different Saturdays by Chet

Gilbert, Noel Montgomery and Jim Robinowitz. Further thanks go to all members, who were involved in our various sales. Our Treasurer, Frank Sorbello, along with his wife Rosemary, continue to be our fundraising leaders, as well as our staunchest workers. They are the straw that stirs the drink! Although we were able to add to our treasury, our sales definitely took a hit this year; noticeably off from both last year and our record year of 2007. Perla Kaufman is responsible for all the timely and excellent club email and snail mail communications. Finally, a bittersweet farewell to Howard and Lily Dash who have moved to New Mexico. Howie was our outstanding President for the last two years. They will both be sorely missed!

The ongoing repeated rain throughout the summer (what summer!) provided our gardens with an unusual lushness, not to mention quagmires of mud. Our summer season was capped with an enjoyable day trip to North Country Daylilies. We had three cars travel up to visit Melanie Mason's gardens. On the way, we stopped at Ella Murphy's home where we enjoyed lunch and toured her exquisite property. On the way and after we arrived, we encountered a drippy, dreary day. During our stay, however, the rain subsided and we were able to have many lovely plants dug to take home.

We started off our fall with a very interesting presentation by John Stahl, from Baldwin, Long Island. Our sights are now set on successfully hosting our first (AIS) Regional meeting on October 2 & 3. Thanks to Rosemary Sorbello and Perla Kaufman who are our Hospitality Co-Chairs.

SOUTHERN TIER IRIS SOCIETY

President: John Colley
Secretary: Dorothy Stiefel
Newsletter Editor: Vaughn Sayles

Vice President: David Blake
Treasurer: E.J. Mattson

2010 Calendar of Events

MARCH 13 – Underused Bulbs for the Garden, Chad Miller, Flower Bulb Researcher at Cornell University.

APRIL 10 – Minnesota Gardens – Vaughn Sayles will provide a visual tour of gardens and flowers in bloom in the Minneapolis/Saint Paul area in June.

MAY 8 – Beardless Iris Tyme – A presentation by Vaughn Sayles on the newest and some not so new Siberian and other beardless iris in bloom at the 2009 National Convention, Bloomington, Minnesota.

AUGUST 7 – PLANT SALE.

SEPTEMBER 11 – Japanese Gardens, Charles Hunt.

OCTOBER 9 – Japanese Iris, Ron & Donna James, Enchantment Acres Flower Farm.

NOVEMBER 13 – Recap of 2010 AIS Convention, Dorothy Stiefel and Vaughn Sayles.

DECEMBER 11 – HOLIDAY PARTY.

WESTERN NEW YORK IRIS SOCIETY

President: Maria Gerbracht
Secretary: Patricia Kluczynski

Vice President: Mary Jane Shanley
Treasurer: David Baehre

2010 Calendar of Events

Mar. 7, Sunday, 2–4:00 p.m., Buffalo & Erie County Botanical Gardens, Meeting: approve Budget, plan special events, Program: Demonstration – **Making flower designs with irises**, Maria Gerbracht, National Garden Clubs Flower Show Judge.

May 2, Sunday, 2–4:00 p.m., home of David Baehre, 5755 Genesee St. Lancaster, Meeting: plan flower shows, Program: **How to Enter Specimens in an Iris Show**, David Baehre, Master Judge, American Iris Society dwbfarm@roadrunner.com, with questions you want answered.

June 5, Saturday, 1–5:00 p.m., Eastern Hills Mall (near the food court), 4545 Transit Road, Williamsville, 9:00 a.m., **IrisShow**, Enter any named iris, Designs by reservation mrgerbracht@verizon.com.

June 11, Friday 6-8:00 p.m., **Tour of 4 Iris Gardens**, meet in David Baehre's garden, 5744 Genesee Street, Lancaster, See irises with complementary perennials and shrubs.

July 11, Sunday, noon- 4 p.m. Rudolph Galley & Sons Greenhouses, 2722 Clinton St. West Seneca, **Spectacular Japanese Iris and Bloomin' Hosta Show**, Oriental Designs by Ikebana International Buffalo Chapter 50. The iris Society will hold a standard Iris Show jointly with The Western New York Hosta Society, which will have an exhibit of Hosta Blooms (practice judging) and also exhibit Hosta Planters.

July 18, Sunday, picnic, place to be determined, **Learn how to prepare irises for the sale.**

July 31, Sat., 9 a.m. - 4 p.m., Rudolph Galley & Sons Greenhouses 2722 Clinton St., W. Seneca, **IRIS SALE and Silent Auction of new cultivars.**

Sept. 12, Sun., 2-4 p.m., **Annual Meeting:** Election of new officers.

Nov. 7, Sun. 2-4 p.m., **Anniversary Celebration, Awards Night.**

WNYIS 2009 Fall Report, Maria Gerbracht

Of the 26 members in our group, 19 participated in some of our activities, while never more than 10 attended our meetings and programs. We have 5 active flower show judges and two working hard to become accredited student judges. We lost our dear friend, George Eisenhardt, after a long illness. He always contributed so much to our shows with the lovely stalks he grew.

A monthly newsletter or written notice goes out March through September to all our members keeping them informed about locally planned activities. This year we had meetings with programs in March, May, July and September. The July program was on garden judging of Japanese irises in the garden of iris judge Joanne Bassett. She prepared an official one hour Judges Training Program (with exam) which was followed by a delicious pot luck supper. Additionally, we enjoyed touring four of our members' gardens on June 10th when Siberians were at their best.

Once again, led by Judy Tucholski-Zon, we held two flower shows. Our Saturday, June 6th Show at Eastern Hills Mall featured TBs and Siberians, and several of us made an effort to show Historic irises because we were awarding the Ethel Peckham Award. 10 Exhibitors brought 101 entries to be judged.

David Baehre won Best Specimen of Show with TB 'Boxwinks Iditarod'. Five designers brought arrangements according to the theme of the show "As Time Goes By". Best Design of Show went to Maria Gerbracht. Joanne Bassett made a great educational exhibit on the judging of irises. The July 5, Japanese Iris Show was once again held at Rudolph Galley & Sons Greenhouses and beautifully staged in front of Japanese screens. This was a small show with only 22 specimens exhibited by 5 growers. Best Specimen of Show went to a Japanese Iris 'Picotee Princess' grown by Maria Gerbracht. Best Design of Show was earned by Judy Tucholski-Zon whose creation was complemented by a lovely oriental accessory. The Educational Exhibit Certificate was earned by Ikebana International Chapter 50. Two members demonstrated and exhibited some truly creative Japanese designs.

The August 1 Sale and Chinese Auction of New Introductions, also took place at Galley's Greenhouse in our favorite suburb of West Seneca, halfway between the north and south towns of Buffalo. Once again David Baehre arranged to purchase irises from a northern Hybridizer so we could hold a Pre-sale: a colorful flyer offering a choice of 12 named cultivars which may be ordered early and then picked up on the day of the sale. We usually make about \$300 on the Pre-sale and it allows everybody to purchase irises even if you know you will be out of the town on that day. Seven of us dug irises and contributed them, and our friends from Rochester donated their leftovers to our sale. We had MDB, SDB, MTB, BB, TB, Siberians, Japanese, Louisianas, Species and Species-Crosses for sale. Usually somebody takes the leftovers to the flea market for sale the next day. However, this year we donated them to two worthy causes: (1) The Buffalo and Erie County Botanical Gardens received all the early flowering irises, because in May 2012 they will be one of the hosts of the national convention of Garden Clubbers. (2) The remaining irises were donated to Graycliff, the summer home architect Frank Lloyd Wright designed for the Darwin D. Martin Family. To restore the garden, the Wright design called for an iris bed surrounding the reflection pool. We were honored to participate in this renovation which eventually will attract many visitors when they come to admire Buffalo's architecture.

We publicize our events monthly in the BUFFALO NEWS, Friday night gardening section. Bi-monthly notices go in the Magazine: UPSTATE GARDENER'S JOURNAL. And seasonal ads appear in the FIGURE 8, the publication for Western New York garden clubs of the National Garden Clubs of NY State. Additionally we distribute handouts at the Buffalo & Erie County Botanical Gardens and Galley's Nursery. New this year are e-mail notices our secretary sends out to anybody inquiring about any of our events, those who have purchased irises from us before or friends and family we wish to send a reminder.

At our September meeting we re-elected our present officers. We are working hard to promote the love of growing irises, but our numbers are not growing. I'm interested in your suggestions on what to do to change this trend.

WNYIS Spring 2010 Report, Maria Gerbracht

50th Anniversary Year

Originally known as Niagara-Southwest Area, our group was founded on April 24, 1960, by botanist Bob Milner who once worked as a hybridizer with Walter Marx and later at Wayside Gardens. Twenty two ESIS members with boundless enthusiasm signed on to share knowledge for growing better irises, planned an August iris auction and two more meetings in homes where they would also tour gardens. Since a Japanese Iris hybridizer founded us, is there any wonder that we have a special fascination for growing that beardless iris?

For 2010, we decided to make sure that at each of our planned events, we will focus on the social component and programs that are FUN. We will have our meetings in homes, if at all possible, until our meeting attendance outgrows our homes. Those of us who have been long time members clearly recall that we became members because of social connections to somebody who was a member of the Iris Society. As in 2009, membership building is our one priority, but the approach is somewhat different.

2009 AIS REGION 2 FALL MEETING

Vaughn Sayles

This past fall the members of the Hudson Valley Iris and Daylily Society (HVIDS) under the leadership of their president, Jim Robinowitz, did an outstanding job hosting the Region 2 Fall Meeting. This was their first time serving as hosts and we greatly appreciate all their efforts in making the event a success.

Friday afternoon on October 2nd AIS members from Region 2 traveled to the Holiday Inn in Fishkill, NY. There we were greeted by members of the HVIDS as we registered. A separate room was reserved for the Silent Auction and HVIDS members were working there logging the items onto a laptop and assisting with the placement of items on the tables. It was nice seeing everyone socializing with fellow irisarians while nibbling on refreshments provided by our hosts. All too soon it was time for the banquet.



Banqueters recognizing a nice evening!

As a change of pace we had an opening banquet instead of a closing one. Following the tasty buffet, Jim Robinowitz presented Region 2 with a certificate from the Town of Fishkill proclaiming the weekend as "Iris Weekend" in the Town of Fishkill. (see page 20).



Jim presenting Vaughn with the certificate.

In the absence of the Region 2 Exhibitions Chairperson, Judy Tucholski-Zon, Region 2 RVP Vaughn Sayles assisted by Dorothy Stiefel presented the Region 2 Show Awards and the Conroe Award.

The Region 2 Show Awards and winners for 2009 were:

1. Peckham Award (Historic Iris) – David Baehre for 'Pink Haze'
2. Blenis Award (Tall Bearded Iris) – Ella Murphy for 'Diversion'
3. McGarvey Award (Beardless Iris) – Donna James for 'Oriental Elegance'



Donna with McGarvey Award

4. Magdalen Award (Median Iris) – E.J. Mattson for 'Dividing Line' an MTB.



EJ with the Magdalen Award

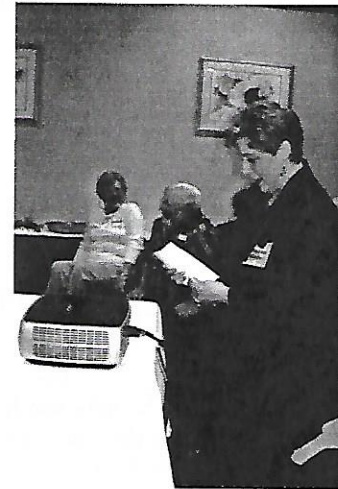
The 2009 Region 2 Conroe Award went to Anna Rettig (see page 21). Anna's daughter, Maria Gerbracht accepted the award for her. Anna is a long time Japanese iris advocate who has mentored several generations of irisarians.



Maria accepting her Mom's Conroe Award

The banquet and awards program were followed by a presentation by our featured speaker for the weekend, iris hybridizer Stephanie Markham of Toadland Gardens, Norfolk, Massachusetts. Stephanie provided an informative and colorful

presentation on Miniature Tall Bearded iris and results of her hybridizing efforts.



Stephanie checking her notes.

The final bids for the Region 2 Silent Auction concluded Friday evening. The auction was a resounding success thanks to the efforts of the HVIDS. In addition to the usual plants and iris "stuff" members of the HVIDS obtained gift certificates for a number of items that were quite valuable. Members of HVIDS also did an outstanding job tabulating the winning bids which was greatly appreciated by Creative Money Chairperson, Millie Horak. The auction raised \$714.00.

The Region 2 General Membership Meeting on Saturday morning was well attended. Special thanks go to Sylvia Borglum for filling in as Secretary. We were then treated to a nice lunch by the HVIDS. After lunch members headed home or attended Stephanie Markham's Judges Training session on Miniature Tall Bearded Iris.

The Region 2 Fall Meeting was enjoyable and productive. Thanks to those who attended and/or donated auction items. Special thanks go to the members of HVIDS for all they did to make the weekend a success.



Certificate of Proclamation

WHEREAS: The Hudson Valley Iris & Daylily Society/American Iris Society is most happily and humbly honored to serve as co-host for the Region 2 Fall Meeting and Conference on Friday and Saturday, October 2nd and 3rd in the historic Town of Fishkill, New York;

WHEREAS: The Hudson Valley Iris & Daylily Society/American Iris Society is comprised of gardeners from Fishkill, Beacon, Milton, Poughkeepsie as well as from municipalities beyond Dutchess and Orange Counties;

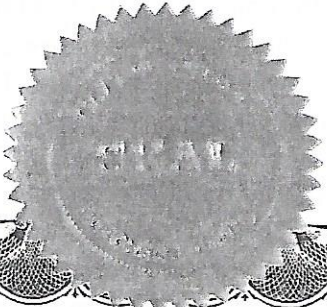
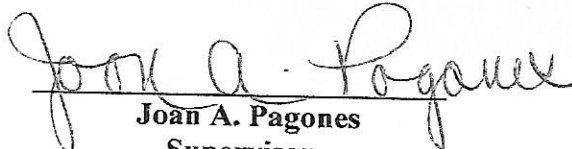
WHEREAS: This 2009 Region 2 Fall Meeting will feature nationally known Iris Hybridizer Stephanie Markham of Toadland Gardens in Norfolk, Massachusetts, who specializes in Miniature Tall Bearded Iris, as featured speaker, and who will also provide Iris Show judges' training;

WHEREAS: The Society most cordially extends an invitation to the General Public to attend our Saturday Iris Show judges' training, and the Society's Luncheon on Saturday;

WHEREAS: Region 2 Chapter Clubs will benefit from a Silent Auction at this Fall Meeting;

WHEREAS: This wonderful gathering is taking place in our precious Hudson Valley as Autumn's breathtaking beauty is just beginning to flower;

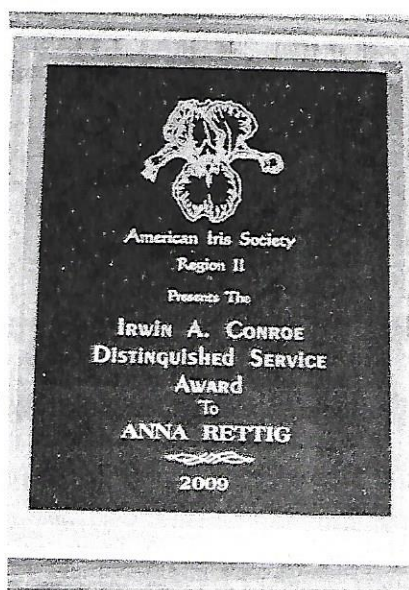
Now, Therefore, I, Joan A. Pagonis, as Supervisor of the Town of Fishkill, do hereby proclaim Friday and Saturday, October 2nd and 3rd in the year of 2009 as "Iris Weekend" in the Town of Fishkill.



Joan A. Pagonis
Supervisor

ANNA RETTIG AWARDED CONROE

Vaughn Sayles

At the 2009 Region 2 Annual Fall Meeting hosted by the Hudson Valley Iris and Daylily Society at the Holiday Inn, Fishkill, NY, I had the honor of presenting the highest award of Region 2 of the American Iris Society at the Awards Banquet. The 2009 Irwin A. Conroe Distinguished Service Award was awarded to Anna Rettig. The award was accepted on Anna's behalf by her daughter Maria Gerbracht. Anna has a long history of promoting iris in Region 2 and has been an advocate of Japanese Iris for many years.



The 2009 Conroe Award

Below is the citation that I read during the awards portion of the Region 2 Fall Meeting.

2009 Irwin A. Conroe

Distinguished Service Award

~ Anna Rettig ~

*The 2009 Irwin A. Conroe
Distinguished Service*

Award is presented to Anna Rettig in grateful recognition of her service to Region 2 of the American Iris Society (AIS).

Anna has been a member of the AIS since 1978 and has been an active member of the Western New York Iris Society (WNYIS) and its predecessors. She is being honored for her long commitment to encouraging iris growing. Anna's garden in Elma, NY, has gained her the title, "The Flower Lady of Elma." Anna has been an ambassador for irises, showing her garden, sharing her blooms at iris shows and spending hours talking to visitors. She has contributed to the financial well-being of the Region and her club annually by donating hundreds of dollars worth of irises to sales.

Anna began growing Japanese iris seeds obtained from her friend and fellow irisarian Al Wirtz, and then began her own hybridizing program. She has introduced seven Japanese irises, two of which have been voted runners-up for the AIS Honorable Mention Award. Her contributions to iris culture and development have previously resulted in the institution of the Western New York Iris Society's Wirtz-Rettig Award for the top Japanese iris at their show.

It is with great respect for Anna as a person and gratitude for all her efforts that Region 2 presents its highest service award.

Congratulations are extended to Anna on receiving this honor. We are indeed fortunate to add her name to the list of iris advocates who have been recognized in Region 2.

An Irisarian's Challenge to Winter

Irwin A. Conroe

*Though wintry blasts may bully
the birds*

*And cause the cattle to huddle in
herds*

They'll blow away like idle words

When Spring comes back again.

*Though ice and snow may cover
the earth*

*And frosts may crackle and
cackle in mirth*

I'll know again the iris's worth

When Spring comes round again.

*So let it blow and bluster and
freeze*

*Whilst sifting snows white-
spectre the trees*

The iris hues again will please

When Spring is here again.

Reprinted from Empire State Iris Society
Newsletter, v.6:no.4 (1959:Nov.)

ANNA KUHRI RETTIG

Maria Gerbracht, Anna's Daughter

Anna is known as the Flower Lady of Elma. She lives on Bowen Road, a busy north-south route on the eastern side of Buffalo. Many a driver has slammed on his/her brakes to catch a glimpse of the gorgeous display of flowers in her front yard. This happens most often when her favorite Japanese irises are in bloom. However, there is a parade of blooms in her garden beginning in March when thousands of snowdrops and crocus burst forth and ending with the last mum in November. People stop all the time to chat with her about growing better flowers. Anna has worshipped in her garden – God's Cathedral – and co-created with the Lord when she hybridized Japanese irises and daylilies in the last 15 of her 90 year life. With weeding and transplanting help, she still grows MDB, SDB, IB, MTB, TB, Siberian, Louisiana, species and of course Japanese irises. Among them are the seven cultivars of Japanese irises she hybridized and introduced. At the 2008 Japanese Iris Society convention, her last introduction, a dwarf Japanese iris 'Miss Buffalo' drew enough attention that John Coble notified her they have included this iris for sale in the 2009 Ensata Catalog.



'Miss Buffalo'

Anna is being honored because of the many folks she got "hooked on growing irises". Demonstrating her enthusiasm for growing, showing and hybridizing new varieties of irises, she has brought many iris society members into the fold over the 30 years that she has belonged to the American Iris Society. Every year she would exhibit irises at the WNYIS show, and then stay for hours to talk to show visitors. Kathy Guest-Shadrack gave her the "Sitting Pretty Award" for selling "The Joy of Growing Irises" to folks. Her loyalty to the Society was also demonstrated because, since 1985, Anna has donated annually around \$500 worth of irises she grew to the WNYIS sale. There were so many irises to prepare that even her husband Martin and daughter Maria pitched in and helped dig, clean and label rhizomes. And then she would stay many hours at the sale showing customers how to grow Japanese irises. Sale customers today still ask "Where is Anna?"

Anna started growing seeds of Japanese irises which her friend Al Wirtz had hybridized. For years Mom and I would go see his Japanese irises in his small garden in Kenmore and at exhibits when he took bloom stalks to local banks for folks to enjoy their beauty. Her hybridized lines contain forerunners of Art Hazzard's from Michigan and a Dr. Nigishi's from Japan with whom Al exchanged seeds at a national convention. The Nigishi seedlings are the shorter types because in Japan they were grown in pots for enjoyment on indoor altars. In honor of Al Wirtz and Anna Rettig, WNYIS gives to the best Japanese Iris in our local show the WIRTZ-RETTIG Award.

Anna Rettig (cont.)

Every visitor in her garden can tell you about the magnificent green-thumb Anna has. When friends would auction and win expensive flowers at conventions, they would bring them to her to multiply. Anna has a special growing knack, a direct line of blessing from the Lord. She calls it "*MISTUS – CHRISTUS*" which translated from German means: where there is manure, there is Christ (blessing things to grow). She learned that lesson from her grandmother Schmidt in Yugoslavia who taught her how to garden. As a widow (with no nursery in town) Grossmutter Schmidt would grow crops of flowers and sell them for income. Her most famous crops were spring pansies, which Anna cared for. In the streets, she had to gather oxen manure and make MANURE TEA which she used to feed the pansies. In spring, when folks came to buy the blooming plants, Anna would cry, "They are taking the prettiest ones!" *Grossmutter* consoled her with "There will still be more beautiful ones coming into bloom". *Grossmutter* showed her how to collect and start seed, and how to hybridize to create double Stock flowers by cross pollinating the doubles with the singles, because only the singles produce seeds from which new doubles will grow. To this day, she still ties strings on the special seed pods to be harvested and grow new seedlings from. Anna's legacy is that several of her seven grandchildren enjoy gardening, and so do five of her 13 great-grand children. All grandchildren and great-grand children visit to enjoy her garden with her. Anna still enjoys growing new varieties of flowers, "more beautiful ones coming into bloom!"

2010 AIS Symposium and Region 2 Favorite Tall Bearded Irises

Below are listed the favorite tall bearded irises in Region 2 according to the rank Region 2 voters gave them in the AIS Symposium. Also shown is the corresponding AIS rank.

<u>Cultivar</u>	<u>Region 2</u>	<u>AIS</u>
'Stairway to Heaven'	1	9
'Before the Storm'	2	27
'Golden Panther'	2	6
'Stepping Out'	2	14
'Celebration Song'	3	8
'Conjuration'	3	3
'Dusky Challenger'	3	1
'Thornbird'	3	5
'All Night Long'	4	77
'Beverly Sills'	4	2
'Daughter of Stars'	4	24
'Hello Darkness'	4	34
'Lady Friend'	4	15
'Paul Black'	4	16
'Queen's Circle'	4	2
'Codicil'	5	*
'Hollywood Nights'	5	35
'Immortality'	5	24
'Joyce Terry'	5	56
'Jurassic Park'	5	45
'Laced Cotton'	5	37
'Rustler'	5	37
'Silverado'	5	7
'Titan's Glory'	5	24
'Vanity'	5	30
'Yaquina Blue'	5	29

* not in the top 100 iris

AIS DEALING WITH A DEFICIT BUDGET

Vaughn Sayles

At the November 2009 Board Meeting in Tulsa, Oklahoma, the Board of Directors of the American Iris Society approved a General Fund deficit budget of approximately \$14,000. In an attempt to prevent this deficit from eroding the AIS Capital Reserves the Board of Directors is taking several steps to eliminate this projected shortfall. Jill Bonino, Treasurer of AIS, mailed a letter to RVPs outlining the steps that AIS is taking to reduce costs and increase revenue. Included in these measures are increasing the registration fee for a new iris cultivar to \$15.00 and cutting printing costs by providing for electronic voting by judges and a new size for the AIS Bulletin. Even with these changes they still anticipate a deficit and two additional remedies are being pursued.

AIS' primary means of eliminating this shortfall is a request for donations. Donations helped AIS survive an unexpected budget increase a few years ago that was precipitated by a dramatic increase in the cost of securing insurance for our activities. Donations are to be made to the AIS General Fund and should be sent to Lynn Williams, AIS Donations Secretary, with the designation of being Unrestricted Donations to the General Fund. Lynn's address is 25415 Salmon Place, Willits, CA 95490. Donations of any size will help AIS with their budget problem. AIS members, Affiliates and Regions are encouraged to make a contribution. Please consider making a donation to AIS at your Affiliate Meetings this spring.

A second approach that is being utilized by a number of other plant/garden societies to generate extra revenue is a new one for AIS. The program is called "Bloomin' Buck\$" with Brent and Becky's Bulbs. AIS registered with Brent and Becky's Bulbs to be part of this program. Go to the website, www.bloominbucks.com, and select AIS from the pull down menu. Anything that you order will generate a percentage contribution to AIS. This contribution to AIS only applies to on-line orders and orders through "Bloomin' Buck\$" are not qualified for additional discounting. We are all gardeners so check it out. You may find some books, bulbs, tools, supplements, gift certificates or other items that you are looking for and your purchase would help AIS.

The AIS Board of Directions is making a courageous effort to keep membership dues frozen while meeting increasing costs that the AIS is facing each year. Any help that we as members can provide individually, as Affiliates and as Regions will be greatly appreciated. The financial burden of providing insurance alone for our activities is a heavy one and one that is necessary for any viable organization today. The American Iris Society is our organization and it needs our support.

50 years ago—1960

The Empire State Iris Society Newsletter was published quarterly. During the year, Edwin Rundlett of Staten Island became editor, replacing Tom Jacoby who had been selected to become editor of the Bulletin of the American Iris Society.

Dr. Irwin A. Conroe was both President of the Empire State Iris Society (ESIS) and RVP of AIS Region 2. This was the year in which ESIS officially affiliated with the American Iris Society, and it was the **only** affiliate in the region. The club was divided into 9 separate "Areas," some of which are now represented by individual Affiliate clubs. The "Areas" were Binghamton, Capital-Hudson, Elmira, Niagara-Southwest, Northern, Rochester, Three Islands, and Tri-County.

The Three Islands Area hosted the ESIS show (Reg. 2's Affiliate show) at Hicks Nursery, Westbury, Long Island, on May 28. Judges for the horticultural section were Dr. L.F. Randolph, AIS President, Dr. Irwin A. Conroe, ESIS President and Reg. 2 RVP, and Mrs. F.W. (Bee) Warburton, President of the Median Iris Society. 41 exhibitors showed 302 entries of 187 cultivars, including 40 seedlings. Grand Champion was the iris 'Harbor Blue' (Schreiner, 1954) shown by Shirley Moore. William Peck, Jr. won the Silver Medal for most blue ribbons and Miriam Duryea won the Bronze Medal for second most. In the artistic section, featuring 31 entries by 17 exhibitors, the Purple Rosette was won by Nevalda Liberi of the Plainview Garden Club.

The Rochester Area held its annual iris exhibition in the Brighton Town Hall on June 5.

Two members of the Binghamton Area collaborated on a landscape design entry for the Spring Garden Show held at the Roberson Memorial.

The Capitol-Hudson Area held a show on June 4th at the Glenville Town Hall in Scotia. The Purple Rosette for best design went to Mrs. Schlansker of Schenectady. In the horticultural section, Best Specimen was won by Joseph Ryan. The AIS Silver Medal went to Fred Ammerall, and the Bronze Medal went to Dr. Irwin Conroe.

The Syracuse Area also held a show, on June 4th at the Niagara Mohawk Building in Syracuse. There were 221 entries in 57 classes. Mary Hall won "Best in Show" with a stalk of 'Star Shine' (Wills, 1948). Clint Ziems won the AIS Silver Medal and Lowell Hawthorne the Bronze Medal.

Iris auction/sales were held and reported by the Binghamton, Capitol-Hudson, Elmira, Niagara-Southwest, Rochester, Syracuse, Three Islands, and Tri-County Areas.

The annual business meeting and banquet was held in Syracuse, with guest speaker Mr. Leslie Laking, Director of the Royal Botanical Garden in Hamilton, Ontario, Canada.

25 Years Ago----1985

The Empire State Iris Society Newsletter was published 3 times a year; Spring, Summer, and Fall/Winter. Albert F. deGroat was the editor, with Mary Pat Engel and Gregory Schifferli as contributing editors.

President of ESIS and Region 2 RVP was Lillian Gristwood. There were 4 active Areas; Capital-Hudson, Niagara-Southwest, Rochester, and Syracuse.

The Affiliate iris show was held in Buffalo at the Eastern Hills Mall. There were 18 exhibitors showing 151 entries. Best specimen of show was 'Cascadian Skies,' (Aitken, 1983), brought in by Greg Schifferli. Best seedling was a superbly branched near white Siberian, TSB 85W, exhibited by Frank Galas. Greg Schifferli won the AIS Silver Medal for most blues, and it took a count of second place, and finally, third place ribbons to break a tie and award the Bronze Medal to Anna Rettig.

The Rochester Area also held a show, at the Greece Towne Mall. There were 125 entries brought by 16 exhibitors. Best Specimen was 'Song of Norway,' (Luihn, 1979), exhibited by Greg Schifferli. The AIS Silver Medal went to Madge Hoar, and the Bronze Medal to Greg Schifferli. Wendy Roller received a Special Bronze Medal for her educational exhibit.

In the annual AIS symposium of favorite irises, 45 Region 2 members voted the following favorites: 1) Stepping Out; 2) Bayberry Candle; 3) Mary Frances; 4) tie—Bride's Halo, Mystique, Victoria Falls and Son of Star; 5) Song Of Norway; 6) tie—Cup Race, Going My Way; 7) tie—Vanity, Shipshape; 8) Pink Taffeta; 9) tie—Autumn Leaves, Babbling Brook; 10) tie—Beverly Sills, Camelot Rose, Christmas Time, Dusky Dancer, Five Star Admiral, Kilt Lilt, Leda's Lover, Ringo, Sheer Poetry, Study in Black, Wine and Roses.

Each of the active Areas held auction/sales in 1985. Total income from all the sales was \$3467.35.

The annual regional meeting was held on Oct. 5, at the Quality Gateway Inn in Rochester.

The Fall/Winter edition of the Newsletter contained a page dedicated to William McGarvey, Ph.D., prominent former Region 2 member who had died in Arkansas in December. McGarvey was ESIS president and Region 2 RVP, past president of the Siberian Iris Society, an AIS Hybridizer's Medal recipient (1976), and a world-renowned authority on Siberian Irises. Many of his introductions, including Ego, Superego, Augury, Pink Haze, Dewful, Wing on Wing, Maggie Smith, and Temper Tantrum may still be found growing in Region 2 gardens today.

Dr. E. Roy Epperson

Dr. E. Roy Epperson, President of the American Iris Society and former President of the Siberian Iris Society, died at his home on Thursday, January 21th, 2010. Edward Roy Epperson was born on October 14th, 1932 in Burnsville, MS. He received his doctorate in Chemistry from the University of the Pacific in 1965.

Dr. Epperson was married to Virginia Albert Epperson on August 19th, 1960. His wife preceded him in death in 1996. They were both on the faculty at Elon College from 1957-1966, where Dr. Epperson was an Assistant Professor of Chemistry. Dr. Epperson was a respected faculty member and director of administrative affairs at High Point College for over 40 years.

Dr. Epperson demonstrated his commitment to his community through his dedicated volunteer service to many agencies. He was a devoted member of Christ United Methodist Church.

Dr. Epperson's avocation was his garden, with a particular love of iris and hostas. He also greatly enjoyed the art of cooking, which he learned at the age of 14 from his mother on a wood-burning stove. He was known locally for his wedding cakes, Yorkshire pudding, for hosting Christmas open houses for friends and University personnel, and for feeding his family really well!

Dr. Epperson is survived by two daughters and four grandchildren. Roy, as he preferred to be known, was a gentleman in every sense of the word and members of the American Iris Society greatly mourn his loss.

