

## WESTERN NEW YORK IRIS SOCIETY WINTER BREAK NEWSLETTER 2022

### **WNYIS NEWS:** Hi Iris Folks,

Another new year 2022 has started and we are still dealing with Covid (Omicron) virus. Things are looking up lately, as numbers are decreasing in western New York. WNYIS continues with Winter Break, but we will resume meetings on March 6, 2022 at 1:30 pm. We meet at Reinstein Library 1030 Losson Rd. S. Cheektowaga, NY 14227 (between Union and Transit Roads)

I have been working on the March 6th PowerPoint Presentation and hope all my research and new iris information will produce an interesting program. It will contain many slides of the various iris classes. The presentation will be "Irises of the Wetlands" but remember, you can also plant these irises in your gardens, with special directions that I will relate during the talk. The irises that grow in our bogs and marshes (and garden ponds) can grow into large clumps in gardens with good soil, compost, acidic fertilizer and regular watering! Iris care and "What to do in the Pre-Iris Garden?" will complete the program. Social time and Business time to follow. Please stay!

Initially, I will introduce some iris classification to assist you in understanding genera, species, subgenera, series, and species cross. Then onto the various irises and their uniqueness with many slides and discussion. The presentation will concentrate on the subgenera *Limniris* and series *Iris laevigata*. Including: *Iris ensatas* (modern Japanese iris), *Iris japonica*, *Iris laevigata* (rabbit ear iris), *Iris pseudacorus* (wild 'yellow flag'), *Iris mackii*, *Iris virginica* (southern 'blue flag'), *Iris versicolor* (northern 'blue flag') and the many Species Crosses (Species X). Reference handouts will be passed. Do attend!

### **AIS Region 2 News:**

The American Iris Society oversees regions of territory. WNYIS is in **Region 2**, which includes New York State, Ontario and Quebec, Canada. Three Affiliate iris societies are in New York State: (GRIS--Rochester area; CHIS--Albany area; and WNYIS-- Buffalo area.) There is one Affiliate in Canada, ONIS—Toronto area.) The officers of Region 2 are: Neil Houghton RVP, Cara Hutchings Assistant RVP, Annette Kuhn Treasurer and Kate Brewitt is Secretary and Website Coordinator.

There are monthly meetings via ZOOM. The Region 2 zoom meetings are on the second Wednesday of the month at 7pm EST. There is an Annual Meeting held in October and is open to all members.

### **American Iris Society News:**

The American Iris Society (AIS) is our "umbrella society." It has all the resources and history (over one hundred years of iris breeding and hybridizing.) It holds an Annual Convention (this year in New Mexico), Awards, produces a Bulletin Magazine four times/year, has excellent internet and library resources, an iris encyclopedia, and many more attractions.

### **The American Iris Society is giving one-year FREE MEMBERSHIP starting March, April and May 2022.**

The qualifiers are simple: the person applying for membership has never been a member of AIS in the past, and that person applying for membership must belong to a local society or section. WNYIS is your local society, and we welcome everyone to join. WNYIS does not collect any dues.

WNYIS members learn and teach about iris and what & how to grow irises in our climate. We enjoy each other and have fun. WNYIS has a yearly judged IRIS SHOW with Perennials (June 4) and everyone may participate. We have an IRIS SALE in August at the Botanical Garden (August 13) with the Hosta and Daylily societies. Potlucks, Cookouts and Iris Garden visitations too! So do join our group!

Always, Marilee (716-668-1789) or (farmare@aol.com)