

Hello Everyone.

1. It is over one month since our wonderful Iris and Perennial Show. June was extra busy for me. I am writing to touch base with members and keep everyone up to date. It was a great Show and there were many visitors to view our irises, flowers and designs. I heard that we had over forty people stop by. **Thank you to all the members who worked so hard to make it a success.** I sent the report to the American Iris Society, and we will have the Awards' Presentation at the September Meeting and Potluck (more info to come in August). The report of the Show, the results and awards is in an attachment. If you were able to stay for the silent voting of the blue-ribbon winners, four of the iris classes won top awards: the Best of the Show was a Siberian iris; the First Runner-up was a Tall Bearded iris; the Second Runner-up was a Species/Cross iris; the AIS Region2 Magdalen Award was a Border Bearded iris; and the Mary Pat Engel Award for the Best Pink iris went to a Tall Bearded iris. The Best Perennial went to an Allium. The Best Design was a “Happy Birthday for a 4-year-old” and its creator was a new member! We had many entrants (over eighty in the iris horticulture division, twenty-one entrants in the perennial division and nine in the design division!) June 4 was a fun show.
2. I wish to take this opportunity to alert all to our new **WNYIS website**. We felt the cost was too much for our society and voted no at the last meeting. But Jodie Baehre McMEnamin decided to surprise us and paid the \$250 on her own and will continue as our webmaster. WNYIS's new website is **<https://www.wnyirises.com>**. This is a fantastic way to advertise our society and educate gardeners who are interested in irises. **Thank you very much, Jodie!**
3. Regarding garden visitations, I was going to have a Spuria iris visitation and training, but my spuria irises grew but did not bloom. Joanne Bassett is inviting members these weeks to see her ensatas (Japanese irises). Please call her or email her for a time.
4. On Saturday, July 30(see #7.) we need to plan and prepare for the Iris Sale in August. It requires member participation and help with labeling/pricing/sorting irises before the Sale. We also need lots of participation and help at the Sale: to set up, sell irises, educate the public, answer questions and invite people to join our WNYIS. The iris sale is work, but we make our money for the year's expenses, plus it enables us to eliminate dues. **The sale is at the Erie and Buffalo Botanical Gardens with the Hosta and Daylily societies. Set-up is August 12. The Iris Sale is on Saturday, August 13, from 9am to 2pm.** Bring all questions to the cookout.
5. The Hosta Society dropped off the **garden books** for summer garden visits. The books are free and listed alphabetically by town. You can call me or email me to arrange to get your book. It is important to call the owner before visiting any garden.
6. American Iris Society has ended their free membership drive as of June 30. **Welcome to all our new members!** You are automatically members of Western New York Iris Society, and we will meet everyone at the cook-out (see #7.) AIS-Region2, which covers members in New York State, Ontario and Quebec, Canada, is our region. The AIS-Region 2 meetings are on Zoom and meet at 7pm on the second Wednesday of most months. Anyone interested in joining the meeting must pre-register. If interested, please email me the day before and I will connect you.
7. **I have planned a cookout for Saturday, July 30 at my home at 1:00 pm for our WNYIS group.** Cheeseburgers, hot dogs, chips and drinks provided. Members, can bring salads and/or desserts. All members invited! **Important Business Meeting starts at 1 o'clock.** Come early. **Please RSVP by 7/28.** 716-668-1789 (farmare@aol.com) 103 Towers Blvd. Cheektowaga 14227 Always, Marilee (your WNYIS president)