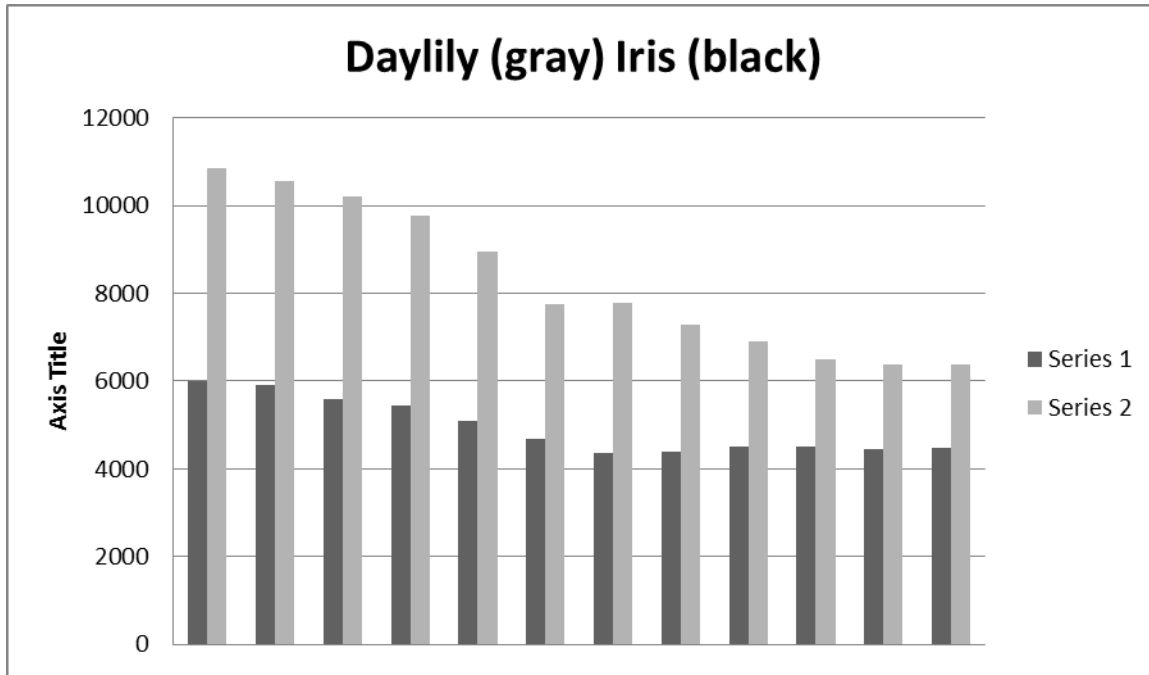


Special membership report comparing plant societies.



The American Hemerocallis Society reached their highest membership point in 2002 at 12,013 members. The American Iris Society reached their highest point around 8,000 members around 1985 and began a long decline while the AHS was growing rapidly and then started their decline more coincidental to the rise of the daylily rust and the great recession. The gap in size between the two societies has been narrowing in the last five years.

Bob's assessment. Early on before the above chart when the AHS was growing and AIS declining The AIS was more resistant to change. About the time both societies were seeing rapid decline the AIS started making some changes as did AHS. The book 'Bowling Alone' came out lamenting the decline of organizations. People no longer joined. In the last six years AIS has made considerable changes. It would appear these changes have had a positive effect although not enough change has occurred to begin to see real growth. It proves that despite the greater society's less interest in organization it is still possible to counteract the greater societal trends and with enough positive change perhaps real growth can occur.

Note I will be surveying other plant societies to see if I can more comparisons.