

# Newsletter of the

# Capital Hudson Iris Society

Volume 22

Number 4

April 2015

## 2015 Calendar

**Saturday, April 11:** Joint meeting with Upstate NY Hosta Society, 1:00 p.m., East Greenbush Library, Mike Shadrack on "Little Hostas".

**Saturday, April 25, 9-12** (rain date Sunday, 4/26). Siberian Iris "dig". Bring your named clumps of Siberian iris for trimming and potting for the 5/17 sale. At Euthemia's house, 13 Hartwood, Delmar. 439-3758 for information.

**Sunday, May 17, 9-12:** Siberian Iris and Perennial Sale, Main Square Shoppes, 318 Delaware Avenue, Delmar, rain or shine! See attached flyer.

**Saturday, May 30:** Iris Show, Bethlehem Public Library, 451 Delaware Avenue, Delmar. If you show your irises, be there at 10:00 am. Open to public from 2-4 pm. Call Kathryn at 952-4994 for more info. See attached flyer for details.

**Sunday, June 7:** Bus trip to Joe Pye Weed's Gardens in Carlisle, MA, and O'Brien Nurserymen in Granby CT. Leave from JC Penney Auxiliary Lot in Crossgates Mall at 8:00 a.m. SHARP! Cost \$40 includes bagels in the morning. Bring a bag lunch.

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## Mike Shadrack on "Little Hostas" Joint meeting with Hosta Society Saturday, April 11

The Capital Hudson Iris Society and the Upstate New York Hosta Society will meet jointly at the East Greenbush Community Library on **Saturday, April 11**, for a presentation by one of our favorite and most entertaining speakers, Mike Shadrack. Both clubs are bringing him in from the Buffalo area to give a talk on "Little Hostas". This is a meeting not to be missed.

Mike Shadrack has been growing hostas since 1986 and has been trying to hybridize almost as long. He came to hostas through his other hobby, fish-keeping, when the beauty of hostas reflected in the garden pond was drawn to his attention in a TV gardening program. He now has many more hostas than fish and now gardens in Hamburg, New York, where with his wife Kathy Guest Shadrack he maintains a large collection of modern cultivars and a garden devoted to small hostas. Their place is called Smug Creek Gardens and you can visit it on the web.

In 1996, Mike retired from London's Metropolitan Police after thirty-two years service and has rarely sat down since. As a police officer he served in many parts of London including Soho and Whitechapel, and at Scotland Yard where he was responsible for Public Order and Ceremonial planning. He is also a qualified London Tourist Board Guide and organizes garden tours both in England and specialized hosta tours in the US. You can ask about them!

We're sure to be treated to some spectacular photographs since Mike has more than 5800 slides of hostas and hosta gardens, and has published numerous books on the subject, as well as contributing photos to other authors. He's president of the Western New York Hosta Society and belongs to the American and British Hosta Societies. Kathy Guest Shadrack also writes hosta books and is well known to some of our group because of her past work with the Western New York Iris Society.

The East Greenbush Community Library is located on Community Way, off Michaels Road in East Greenbush. From Albany or I-787, take the Patroon Island Bridge to Exit 9 and go south on Route 4 for about a half mile to Route 151 going east,  $\frac{3}{4}$  of the way around the traffic circle. Michaels Road is the second right off Route 151. Bring a dessert or snack to share, bring a friend or two, and prepare to enjoy yourself. Coffee and goodies start at 1:30 and the meeting will begin at 2:00. If you have any questions, call Euthenia at 439-3758 or write her an email.

**Join the American Iris Society at [www.irises.org](http://www.irises.org)  
and receive their excellent journal**

with Mike Shadrack talking about Little Hostas. Don't miss it, he's such a great speaker. Be there at 1:30.

The Iris Dig is on Saturday, April 25<sup>th</sup> with a rain date for Sunday the 26<sup>th</sup> (if it says it's going to rain both days, we'll do Saturday). It will be at Euthemia's house again. Dig up your clumps of named Siberians and bring them to the dig at 9:00 to be divided, potted and labeled. You remember how much fun this is, and if you've never done it, come and try it out. It's a great group effort and it's what makes our club such a fun organization – we work together! All of our effort will go a long way to making the Siberian Iris and Perennial Sale on Sunday, May 17, a resounding success.

We've got a great bus trip planned for Sunday, June 7<sup>th</sup>. We're going to Marty and Jan's Joe Pye Weed Gardens in Carlisle, Massachusetts first, to see their great Siberians and the hybridizing fields loaded with color, then we'll go to John O'Brien's Nursery in Granby, Connecticut to buy some of his spectacular perennials. (See the article in this newsletter.) I'm looking forward to seeing you all on April 11 at our meeting. - Linda

### **Business Meeting March 15**

1.) There was a brief run-down of upcoming events including the Flower and Garden Show at HVCC March 27-29, and a call for members to sign up to man our booth. 2.) Our next meeting will be Saturday (NOT Sunday) April 11 at the East Greenbush Community Library, featuring Mike Shadrack speaking on miniature hostas. This will be a joint meeting with our sister club, UNYHS. 3.) The Siberian iris and Perennial Sale takes place Sunday, May 17 at Main Square in Delmar with a potting party on April 25 (rain date 4/26) at Euthemia's in Delmar. 4.) There was some discussion about a June 7 bus trip to either Joe Pye Weed's Garden in MA (with a side trip to John O'Brien's Nursery in CT) or to Dana Borglum's garden in Geneva, NY. (See this newsletter for details.) 5.) Bill Wurster announced there will be a HADS bus trip to the Regional Daylily meeting in Enfield, CT July 17-19. 6.) Mary Lou Nahas invited members to hear Kerry Mendez speak to the Clematis Society at Norton Hill Methodist Church, 5830 Rt 81, west of Greenville, on Friday, April 10 at 1 PM. Info: J. Horn 966-4260 Mary Heisinger 966-4832. It's free, no pre-registration needed. Topic: The Right Size Garden.

Be sure to check out your developing Siberians to decide what you need to dig for our Siberian Potting Party at Euthemia's home, 13 Hartwood Road, Delmar, from 9-12 on Saturday, April 25<sup>th</sup>. Bring your clumps well marked and tools you use to divide (knives, gloves, etc.), as well as a chair and bridge table if you've got one. Come even if you have no irises to contribute – we need you! Send Euthemia your list of irises by April 14<sup>th</sup>. This is how we get our great Siberian irises for the Siberian Iris and Perennial Sale on Sunday, May 17<sup>th</sup> at Main Square Parking Lot in Delmar, and because they come from our gardens, we can sell them very cheaply! Call 439-3758 for more information.

### **Bus Trip Sunday, June 7**

For this year's bus trip we'll be going back to see Marty Shaffer and Jan Sacks at Joe Pye Weed's Garden in Carlisle, Massachusetts, and to O'Brien Nurserymen (aka John O'Brien's Nursery) in Granby, Connecticut on Sunday, June 7. Marty and Jan were our speakers at the October 2014 Region 2 Meeting and it will be wonderful to follow up with them and see their magnificent gardens and planting fields in full color. John O'Brien specializes in hostas and this is their Hosta Weekend, when they expect to have their hostas at their best. The bus will leave from the auxiliary lot at JC Penney in Crossgates Mall. The cost of the trip will be \$40. We'll leave at 8:00 a.m. sharp and expect to be home by about 7:00 p.m. We'll have bagels on the bus for breakfast but bring your own bag lunch and any snacks for later in the day. More info in the May newsletter. To sign up e-mail Linda Knipper at [Linda.Montanaro@gmail.com](mailto:Linda.Montanaro@gmail.com).

### **Joanne Strevey in March**

"A rose by any other name would smell as sweet..." Ah, but not so, according to Joanne Strevey, a purveyor of fine David Austen roses in West Charlton, NY, and our March speaker. Joanne passionately laid out her case for growing David Austen roses and I'm sure she persuaded more than a few of us to give these beauties a try. They are renowned for their hardiness, their form (both bush and bloom) and their exquisite fragrance. One variety will waft the scent of myrrh through your garden---and when was the last time you caught a whiff of myrrh as you stepped out your front door? The very thought of it makes me dizzy on yet another frigid March morning. With a bit of care (sunlight, good siting, some spraying for pests and adequate winter protection) we can all enjoy a bit of Britain in our gardens. Plan a visit to Rosewood Gardens in West Charlton and let Joanne Strevey guide your selection.

# Iris Show



Saturday, May 30th

2:00 - 4:00 p.m.

Bethlehem Public Library

451 Delaware Avenue, Delmar, NY

This judged cut-flower show will have a generous display of named irises of all sizes and varieties grown by iris lovers from around the Capital Region. For additional information, call 952-4995.

The Capital-Hudson Iris Society is sponsoring another fabulous

# **SIBERIAN IRIS & PERENNIAL SALE**

**Sunday, May 17<sup>th</sup>**  
**From 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM**



**In the parking lot (rain or shine) at  
Main Square Shoppes  
318 Delaware Avenue, Delmar**

**Siberian irises, daylilies, hostas, and a wide assortment of  
sun and shade perennials from our members' gardens.  
The prices and selection will be extraordinary. Don't miss it!**

**For information call 518 439-3758**