

# Newsletter of the Capital Hudson Iris Society

Volume 22

Number 1

January 2015

## 2015 Calendar

**Sunday, January 18<sup>th</sup>:** 1:30 p.m. Meeting, East Greenbush Library. Mary Lou and Chris Nahas "Taking Hints from the Brits in Planning Your Garden". Ideas for home gardens based on a trip to Wales and Bath, and to the Hampton Court Flower Show.

**Sunday, February 15<sup>th</sup>:** Annual Doldrums Party with the Upstate NY Hosta Society and the Hudson-Adirondack Daylily Society, hosted this year by HADS. Guest speaker: Andrew Koehn, Director of Horticulture, Mohonk Mountain House.

Sunday, March 15: Meeting, 1:30 p.m., East Greenbush Library, Speaker TBA

Friday, March 27 – Sunday, March 29: Capital District Garden and Flower Show, Hudson Valley Community College. Additional information next month.

Sunday, April 12: Meeting, 1:30 p.m., East Greenbush Library, Speaker TBA

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at [www.irises.org](http://www.irises.org)**

## Taking Hints from the Brits in Planning Your Garden

Mary Lou Nahas and her son, Chris, visited the Royal Horticultural Society's annual Hampton Court Flower Show in the early summer of 2014 along with a visit to Bath and around Wales. They came away from Britain very impressed with how ordinary citizens (not professionals) have produced such beautiful gardens. They will be our guest speakers on Sunday, January 18<sup>th</sup>, at the East Greenbush Community Library. The title of their talk and slide show is "Taking Hints from the Brits in Planning Your Garden." The program is designed to give us ideas on planning our gardens for spring.

Now is a good time for planning as we begin getting the onslaught of garden catalogues and drooling at the possibilities. Or perhaps you're making plans for a trip to the Philadelphia Flower Show in early March to get some ideas for the spring. Mary Lou and Chris will help us along by showing what individual British gardeners are doing. They will take us down a market street in Wales, to the Hampton Court Flower Show, and to Bath, to give us images we may want to incorporate into our home gardens.

Mary Lou Nahas is a very active (and talented) gardener living in Oak Hill, New York, in Greene County. She is chairperson of the Clematis Garden Club and active in the Federated Garden Club activities in Greene County and beyond. She has been a member of CHIS for many years and is responsible for recommending many of the best speakers we have had at our meetings. She and her husband, Nick, operate the I U Tripp Antiques and Collectibles in Oak Hill. Their son Chris, a graduate of Pratt Institute, is a consulting art director for New York City based companies, and operates Icepedition, a company that takes you on spectacular tours of Iceland, and/or arranges individual tour plans for independent travellers. Chris has inherited his mother's gardening eye and contributes to the beautiful gardens in Oak Hill.

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, ¾ 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 Euthemia at 439-3758 or write her an email.

**Join the American Iris Society  
and receive their excellent journal.**

## *Linda says...*

Hello All,

It's the new year, although we all know it's come too fast! Welcome to 2015! May all of you have a good new year and a good garden to go with it.

Mary Lou and Chris Nahas will help us along with that in their talk on Sunday, January 18<sup>th</sup> at the East Greenbush Library. After they left a trip to Iceland last year that Chris coordinates (he does great trips, by the way), they went to the Royal Horticultural Society Flower Show at Hampton Court Palace and made side trips through Wales and to Bath. They were so impressed with the gardens of the pubs, the row houses, all the beautiful spots that regular gardeners like ourselves have produced, that they want to share it with us. It promises to be an extra-special meeting so don't miss it!

In February, we have the opportunity to hear Andy Koehn, Director of Horticulture at Mohonk Mountain House at the annual Doldrums Party to be held at the Albany County Cooperative Extension on Martin Road in Voorheesville. This is our yearly get together with the Hudson Adirondack Daylily Society (hosts this year), and the Upstate New York Hosta Society. It's a pot-luck so bring your best dish, a friend, and be ready for a good afternoon. If you have any nice door prizes you would like to contribute, they will be appreciated. CHIS will also be contributing some gift certificates from iris growers for the door prize table. At the Doldrums Party there will be a sign-up sheet for monitoring the CHIS/UNYHS/HADS table at the Hudson Valley Garden and Flower Show in March. Also, if any of you are new members, it will give you an idea of our group and two of the other active garden groups in the area. We really like new people to join us, so please come and bring a friend!

Dan Maier is working on programs for March and April, so if you have any ideas about good speakers, or anyone you'd like to see come back, let him know.

All our best wishes to Don Salhoff who is recuperating from his (other) knee replacement!

See you all on our "trip to Britain" on January 18<sup>th</sup>!

- Linda

## *Neglected Business from November*

There were several important business decisions made at the November meeting that I neglected to put into the December newsletter. One is that it was voted to donate \$200 to Region 2 for 2014. Another vote was to spend \$500 on gift certificates -- \$450 for the Holiday Party door prizes in December, and another \$50 for two gift certificates for the Doldrums Party in February. The gift certificates will focus on iris growers so that winners can order and grow plants that can later be divided to for contributions to the plant sales in spring and fall. It was also decided that CHIS will continue its presence at the annual Capital District Garden and Flower Show at Hudson Valley Community College in late March. Although the cost of the table we share with HADS and UNYHS has gone up, the contact with the public is important and is a good source of advertising for our plant sales. The other item was that the day reported for the Doldrums Party was wrong in the November newsletter, it's on Sunday, February 15 (the newsletter said Saturday).  
- Euthemia Matsoukas

## *Holiday Party*

We had a delicious and fun time at the Holiday Party on Sunday, December 7. About 30 people attended and the food was great, as usual. This year we specialized in bean dishes, salad, and a multitude of homemade desserts. Last year we had hardly any desserts, this year people tried to make up for it and they certainly did -- and nobody complained! The gift certificate door prizes and gift exchange were all terrific and everyone left happy (and a little fatter.)

## *February and March*

Be sure not to miss the Doldrums Party at the Albany County Cooperative Extension in Voorheesville on Sunday, February 15<sup>th</sup>. Linda's column tells the story well. We'll have sign-up sheets so you can pick a slot to man the table at the Capital District Garden and Flower Show on either March 27, 28 or 29<sup>th</sup>. For those who have never been to Mohonk Mountain House and seen their extensive grounds will really appreciate the talk. The gardens reflect the influence of the French and Italian, but mostly English styles of landscaping from the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century. Having their Director of Horticulture as a speaker will be a real treat.  
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