

# Newsletter of the Capital Hudson Iris Society

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## *2015 Calendar*

**Sunday, March 15:** Meeting, 1:30 p.m., East Greenbush Library, Guest speaker: Joanne Strevy of Rosewood Gardens in West Charlton will give a talk "Anyone Can Grow David Austin English Roses".

**Friday, March 27 – Sunday, March 29:** Capital District Garden and Flower Show, Hudson Valley Community College. Sign up at the March meeting for our booth.

**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.

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

**Saturday, May 30:** Iris Show, info in April & May newsletters.

**Sunday, June 7:** Possible bus trip (more to follow)

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## **Anyone Can Grow David Austin Roses: Joanne Strevy on 3/15**

The next meeting of the Capital Hudson Iris Society will be on Sunday, March 15, at the East Greenbush Community Library at 1:30 p.m. Our guest speaker will be Joanne Strevy who will give a talk entitled "Anyone Can Grow David Austin Roses".

Joanne Strevy, owner of Rosewood Gardens in West Charlton, Saratoga County, is a master grower and designer, speaker, and writer. She has a gift for creating gorgeous English gardens and sharing her passion with others. She started her unique nursery at her beautiful home in 2009 and it has blossomed. Her plant inventory is lush and well priced. She specializes in sunny-loving perennials that work well in cottage gardens and David Austin English roses. She carries dozens of these beauties as well as an easy-to-follow instruction manual on how to care for them.

After Joanne began growing David Austin roses, she loved them so much that she installed a magnificent garden dedicated totally to them. She loves to design English gardens, mixing fragrant roses with cottage perennials. She's a Master Gardener who is passionate about teaching gardeners how easy it is to grow roses, and to help them create beautiful, manageable gardens that they can enjoy for years. Her enthusiasm is infectious! We're sure to learn a lot and to come away with lots of ideas for our spring gardens.

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 Euthemia 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*

Extension. Despite the weather, we had a great turnout and an entertaining speaker.

We need to finalize ideas for a bus trip (yes/no, where to?) at the March meeting. We'll hear Joanne Strevy of Rosewood Gardens in West Charlton, a David Austin Rose specialist. You'll also have the opportunity to sign up to man the tables at the Hudson Valley Show from March 27-29. It's how we spread the word about our sales and get new people interested in our club, so it's a very important event.

And on **Saturday**, April 11, at 1:00 p.m. the Hosta Society and Iris Society will be welcoming Mike Shadrack from Buffalo, who will talk about "Little Hostas". It promises to be a great beginning to spring!

- Linda

## Winter Doldrums Party: The Gartenmeister

Bill Wurster and Cindi Jones headed up the committee for the Hudson Adirondack Daylily Society's hosting of the Winter Doldrums Party on Sunday, February 15. They set up and beautifully decorated the big hall in the Albany County Cooperative Extension building and all was ready for us when we arrived with our potluck contributions at 11:00. The program went smoothly, the food was delicious as always, and the speaker was both informative and entertaining, as advertised.

Andrew Koehn, known as the Gartenmeister of Mohonk Mountain House in the Hudson Valley, gave us a great list of perennials, trees, bushes and other plants to think about for our gardens. (For in-depth descriptions and photos, look the following plants up on the internet.)

\***Tree Peony *Hanakisoi***. Give them a little shade.

Contrary to popular lore, they can be moved around.

\***Intersectional hybrid tree peonies**, especially *Bartzella*.

\***Smoke Bush *Velvet Cloak*** – dark red leaves, holds color for a long time. Dark pink plumes. Needs pruning every two years immediately after the "smoke" matures and falls in order to keep it in control.

\***Delphinium *Royal Purple*** gets to be 8', developed by Bob Rider of Kaatskill Delphiniums in Delaware Co.

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\***Kousa Dogwood *Summer Stars*** beautiful flowers and lovely fruit set (berries) in fall.

\***Daffodils/miniature narcissus *Ice Wings***.

\***Wisteria** – showed a 50 year old white tree, needs pruning out of excess growth 8 weeks after they flower, promote spur growth on side stems and remove excess growth after you establish them in the garden. Japanese varieties more showy than Chinese.

\***Leon Ginenthal of Ithaca**, runs Der Rosenmeister Nursery. He taught Andrew to bury the rose deeply, the bud union goes at least 3 inches below ground. Andrew recommends *William Baffin* and *Complicata*.

\***Iris *Feedback***, a rebloomer, purple with white beard.

\***Tuberous begonias from Blackmore and Langdon, *Amy***, a beautiful red that does well in the shade. Or a Bolivian begonia *semperflorens* hybrid *Pink Whopper*.

\***Dinnerplate Dahlia *Otto's Thrill*** was also on his list. He digs holes and doesn't cover the tubers with dirt, leaving the sun baking on the root. When the plant begins to grow he then covers the tuber when the growth is higher than the ground level.

\***For drama**, he likes plants that are bigger than people such as Castor Bean *Carmencita*, a red abyssinian banana (which will run and needs constant controlling. They need to be lifted in fall with a front end loader and overwintered in a 10-12 gallon pot where they will shrink down, and then with the warmth of spring and watering, will regrow.

\***Leonotis** flowers in October are orange pendulous plants that work well with fall-blooming salvia. Seed varieties are too tall – vegetatively propagate them.

\***Pennisetum *Jade Princess*** is brown and looks good with chartreuse and pink flowered plants.

\***Colocasia *Black Coral*** are big black elephant ears. *Thai Giant* is another Colocasia that can be seen at Chantaclaer in Pennsylvania. They keep them in a 55 degree greenhouse and bring them out for July – September. They need lots and lots of water.

\***Landscape grass, *Garvinia***, works in full sun. Others can't take the heat.

\***Deer proof** your plants from Father's Day weekend, when does come out with their fawns. Spray with deer spray and when plants are actively growing you need to spray again to keep the plant protected. He sprays hostas and hydrangeas every three weeks.

\***Gunnera** are big green leafy plants that grow well near ponds, and can be seen at Stonecrop in Putnam County.