

# Newsletter of the Capital Hudson Iris Society

Volume 22

Number 5

May-June 2015

## 2015 Calendar

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

**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.**

### **\*\*\* New Information, Important!**

**Sunday, June 7:** Bus trip to Joe Pye Weed's Gardens in Carlisle, MA, and O'Brien Nurserymen in Granby CT. **Leave from Pet Smart in back of Crossgates Commons (off Washington Avenue Ext.) at 8:00 a.m. SHARP!** Cost \$40 includes bagels in the morning. Bring a bag lunch.

**Saturday, July 25, 9-12:** Iris Rhizome Digging Party, Euthemia's in Delmar. Bring your named clumps of bearded irises or just come to help divide other people's irises. Call 439-3758 for info.

**Saturday, August 1<sup>st</sup>, 9-12:** Iris Rhizome Sale, Faddegon's Nursery. See July-August newsletter for additional information.

## CHIS Contacts

**CHIS Chair:** Linda Knipper,  
[Linda.Montanaro@gmail.com](mailto:Linda.Montanaro@gmail.com)  
518 377-4987

**Vice Chairs:** Dan and Joanne Maier,  
[Danjomaier@gmail.com](mailto:Danjomaier@gmail.com)  
518 449-8480

**Secretary:** Virginia Dorwaldt,  
[vmdorwaldt@gmail.com](mailto:vmdorwaldt@gmail.com)  
518 439-3110

**Treasurer:** Don Salhoff,  
[driris2000@hotmail.com](mailto:driris2000@hotmail.com)  
518 439-1484

**Newsletter editor:** Euthemia Matsoukas,  
[EuthemiaMatsoukas@gmail.com](mailto:EuthemiaMatsoukas@gmail.com)  
518 439-3758

**Iris Show Chair:** Kathryn Mohr,  
[kemohrke@aol.com](mailto:kemohrke@aol.com)  
518 952-4995

## Siberian Iris and Perennial Sale, Iris Show, and Bus Trip All Coming Up Soon!

We're now into our "heavy" months of iris activity. The **Siberian Iris and Perennial Sale**, which many of you wait all year for, will be on Sunday, May 17<sup>th</sup> from 9-12 at Main Square Shoppes Parking Lot, 318 Delaware Avenue, Delmar, rain or shine. There will be lots of Siberian and species cross irises (which are like Siberians) all potted and ready to plant, as well as a broad selection of perennials, many from our member's gardens. We have also bought some special perennials from a wholesaler that we will sell below retail cost. As most of you know, it's a great sale and a perfect opportunity to add to your garden collections, especially after our hard winter. Bring your friends!

On Saturday, May 30, the annual **Iris Show** will be held at the Bethlehem Public Library, 451 Delaware Avenue, Delmar. It is open to the public from 2-4. If you want to show named irises, get to the library at 10:00 when they open. You'll have until 11:30 to prep and label your irises (you'll need all that time) before the judging begins. If you have any questions, call Kathryn Mohr at 952-4995.

Our **Bus Trip** this year will be on Sunday, June 7. We'll go to Marty Shafer and Jan Sacks' Joe Pye Weed's Garden in Carlisle, MA, and then off to O'Brien Nurserymen in Granby, CT. Jan and Marty were our guest speakers at the Region 2 meeting in October and we look forward to seeing in person their beautiful gardens and hybridizing fields. Those of you who have been there before will certainly want to go back, and those who haven't, don't miss it! O'Brien's Nursery has fabulous plants and this is their Hosta Weekend (hostas at their prime). If you didn't get a chance to sign up at the April meeting, e-mail Linda Knipper right away at [Linda.Montanaro@gmail.com](mailto:Linda.Montanaro@gmail.com). Include your telephone number so that she can call you in case we have no more room or if case we need to reach you just before the trip. The cost is \$40 including a bagel for breakfast in the morning. Bring a bag lunch.

The bus will **leave from a new place** this year, the Pet Smart Parking lot in back of Crossgates Commons on the right. Crossgate Commons is the mall across Washington Avenue Extension from Crossgates Mall. You'll see the **Yankee Trails Bus**. We leave at 8:00 a.m. SHARP so **get there by 7:45!** Send Linda e-mail with questions.

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

## Linda says...

Hello All,

We had a great iris dig and have wonderful plants ready for the Sunday, May 17<sup>th</sup> Siberian Iris and Perennial Sale in the parking lot at Main Square Shoppes, 318 Delaware Avenue in Delmar. We'll be there from 9-12 – those of you in the know will get there early to get the best selection. Bring your gardening friends, I know they'll appreciate you for it!

The Iris Show on Saturday, May 30 (that's the weekend AFTER Memorial Day) at the Bethlehem Public Library should be a welcome treat. If you want to see bearded and beardless irises at their best, come from 2-4 p.m. when the show is open to the public. Those of you who are going to show your irises should get there at 10:00 a.m. so you have time for grooming and displaying your selections. It takes lots of time to do this, so don't come late. Iris placement and judging begin at 11:30.

We've got a great bus trip planned for Sunday, June 7<sup>th</sup>. Let me know right away if you plan on coming. The cost is \$40 including a bagel breakfast. See the front page article for details. **We leave from the Pet Smart Parking lot in back of Crossgates Commons, a new departure spot this year. Be there at 7:45 a.m.**

Thanks to the Hosta Society for coordinating the wonderful meeting we had with Mike Shadrack in April. Now we'll have a chance to pick up some of those beautiful little hostas he talked about when we go to O'Brien Nurserymen on our bus trip. Perfect timing!

- Linda Knipper

### Business Meeting April 11

A joint meeting of the Iris Society and the Hosta Society was held at the East Greenbush Library on Saturday, April 11. A social hour preceded the business meetings. Margo Heck conducted the Hosta Society meeting, followed by Linda Knipper in her role as President of the Iris Society. She made the following announcements: 1) The Siberian dig will be held April 25<sup>th</sup> at Euthemia's, with the rain date being Sunday the 26<sup>th</sup>. 2) The Siberian Iris and Perennial sale will be Sunday, May 17<sup>th</sup> at Main Square in Delmar. It is one of our major fundraisers. 3) The Iris show will be held Saturday, May 30<sup>th</sup> at the Bethlehem Library. Kathryn still needs 2 clerks for the show. 4) The bus trip is Sunday, June 7<sup>th</sup> to Joe Pye Weed Garden in Carlyle, MA and then to John O'Brien Nursery in Connecticut. The cost of \$40 includes bagels and juice on the bus. Meet at Pet Smart, Crossgates Commons at 7:45 a.m. – **Virginia Dorwaldt**

## We Need Your Perennials!

The Siberian Iris and Perennial Sale is on Sunday, May 17. Many of you come to buy, but we also need you to bring some plants to sell. I'm sure you have perennials that need dividing, that you have too much of, and that you think others would like to have. If so, please pot them up and mark them carefully with the plant name (Latin if you know it or can look it up on the internet) and ideally the cultivar, color and approximately how tall it gets. Get to the sale early so we can put a permanent marker on it and price the plant. No plant is priced under \$2 and if it's really good, it can go for \$10 or more. Plants that sell well include fancy hostas, daylilies if you know the color, anything in flower, and anything that you know people love. Call Euthemia at 439-3758 if you have any questions.

### Bud-fly: Do you have this?

For the past few years I've had a couple problems with my iris: buds that turn brown and mushy, and iris blooms with missing or distorted segments. I blamed the first on too much rain during the cold spring months and the second on herbicide drift. Last year I read an article in the Canadian Iris Society Summer 2012 issue which revealed a possible cause: the larva of *Neorthochaeta dissimilis*, or iris bud fly. (See Summer 2012 [Canadian Iris Society cis newsletter - e-clipse.ca](http://CanadianIrisSociety.org/cis-newsletter-eclipse-ca) (p.27) and Summer 2013 [Canadian Iris Society cis newsletter - e-clipse.ca](http://CanadianIrisSociety.org/cis-newsletter-e-clipse-ca) (p.10) for detailed information and pictures.) I split open a mushy bud and there it was – a small white worm. The larvae burrow into the side of a bud and eat the pollen, damaging the blossom. I went through the garden and removed all the affected buds, split them to check for the presence of the larva, placed the bud into a sealed plastic bag and disposed of them in the trash bin. If there was no larva in the bud I cut the stem below the bud and disposed of that. I hope this will control it. If not, I'll try sticky traps next year. - **Kathryn Mohr**

### Mike Shadrack on Hostas

CHIS members joined our sister club, the Upstate NY Hosta Society to welcome Mike and Kathy Shadrack of western New York to our April meeting. Mike gave a humorous and insightful presentation on gardening with little hostas, showcasing dozens of gorgeous varieties. To borrow a line from Dr. Seuss, "you can plant them in a box - you can plant them in a trough..." These versatile little shade-lovers come in a myriad of forms and colors and require minimal maintenance. They are perfect in a massed setting or as specimens planted at the front of the border. For more information pick up a copy of "The Book of Little Hostas," by Kathy Guest Shadrack, with beautiful photos by her husband, Mike. – **Dan Maier**

The Capital-Hudson Iris Society presents their annual

# 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**