

Newsletter of the Capital Hudson Iris Society

Volume 23

Number 5

May - June 2016

2016 Calendar

Sunday, May 15th, 9 – noon. **Siberian Iris and Perennial Sale**, Main Square Shoppes, 318 Delaware Avenue, Delmar. Rain or shine. Hundreds of perennials ready for planting. Rain or shine, we'll be there! Tell your friends and

May 23-May 28: American Iris Society Convention in New Jersey/Pennsylvania. Most of us will go on Wednesday, returning Sunday morning. For full information, go to <http://ais2016convention.com>.

Saturday, June 4, Annual Iris Show, Bethlehem Public Library. Open to the public from 2-4 p.m. An opportunity to show your prized named irises. Contact Kathryn Mohr for additional info at 952-4995.

Saturday, July 30, Bearded Iris Digging and Dividing Party, Euthemia's house, 13 Hartwood Road, Delmar. 9-12. Bring your named iris rhizomes freshly dug and we'll trim, divide and bag them with pictures for the sale at Faddegon's on August 6th.

Saturday, August 6th, Annual Rhizome Sale, 9-12 at Faddegon's Nursery, 1140 Troy-Schenectady Road (Route 7), Latham, 2.5 miles east of the Northway.

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Sunday, May 15th: Siberian Iris and Perennial Sale

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 15th from 9-12 at Main Square Shoppes Parking Lot, 318 Delaware Avenue, Delmar, rain or shine. We have more than 300 Siberian and species cross irises (which are like Siberians) all potted and ready to plant and they're only \$5 each! We also have a wide selection of perennials, many from our member's gardens, from \$3 up. In addition, there will be some special perennials from a wholesaler that we sell below retail cost.

For those of you who will be helping with the sale or donating potted perennials, please arrive by 7:30 for set-up. Plants should be marked with the name of the cultivar, color and, if possible, the height of the full-grown plant. Use a Sharpie or other permanent marker. If you need pricing guidance, labels cut from old thin-slat venetian blinds or other materials, or information in general, call Euthemia at 439-3758.

As most of you know, it's a great sale and a perfect opportunity to add to your garden collections. If you'd like an advance list of the irises we will have and a short description of each one, send e-mail to Euthemia@nycap.rr.com and you'll get one. We've also listed and described some of the daylilies that will be available at the sale. Come early so you don't miss out on the great irises and perennials we'll have.

Please bring your friends to the sale, we know they'll love it. And if you can, post the attached flyers advertising our events in your local library, coffee shop or supermarket, or e-mail them to friends.

Saturday, June 4th: Iris Show

On Saturday, June 4th, 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. Members bring their prize irises, cut that morning (usually) and the display is just breathtaking.

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.

*Join the American Iris Society at www.irises.org
and receive their excellent journal*

Linda says...

Hello All,

At our last meeting, on Sunday, April 10th, Phyllis Rosenblum, Master Gardener and former Times Union Garden Columnist, gave a talk about Vegetable Gardening. We really appreciated her common-sense approach and enjoyable presentation. Thank you so much Phyllis!

We had a successful Siberian Digging Party at Euthemia's on Saturday, April 16th. Between what the group was able to pot on that morning, plus additional boxes of irises that arrived from Bob and Ann Keup in Maine (he was one of our founders and has continued as a guiding spirit for so many years), we've got more than 300 irises to offer for the sale on May 15th! Euthemia, Dan, Joanne, Kathryn and Virginia potted up the extra boxes during the next week. Way to go everyone, and especial thanks to Bob and Ann Keup for their unfailing loyalty to our club.

I know you won't forget the sale on Sunday, May 15th, since it's one of our best events of the year. And the Iris Show will be at the Bethlehem Public Library on Saturday, June 4.

Our best suggestion for a fall bus trip is Tower Hill in Boylston, MA one weekend in September. We would try to coordinate with one of the special shows they have on weekends. Any other ideas, let me know!

See you on May 15th at the Sale! - Linda

Label your Bearded Irises

As your bearded irises begin to bloom, it's a good time to label them, and to mark where one begins and another ends if they've been growing together. Then you'll know what you've got and where to dig those you want to divide for the Rhizome Dig on July 30th at Euthemia's home. If you don't label them well, you won't know what to dig – and you know you've GOT to divide some of those rhizomes right away!

At the dig we'll take your clumps, clean and divide them into separate rhizomes, mark each rhizome with a label with the name and description of the rhizome, put them into a bag that has a picture and description of the rhizome on it, and we'll bring the hundreds of bags of rhizomes to the Rhizome Sale at Faddegon's Nursery on Saturday, August 6th. It's always a great sale.

Minutes 4/10/2016

The meeting opened with a welcome from Linda. She reviewed the upcoming events: the Siberian dig at Euthemia's on Saturday, April 16th; the Siberian Iris and Perennial sale at Main Square on Sunday, May 15th from 9-12; the Iris Show at the Bethlehem Library on June 4th; and requested suggestions for a bus trip this fall.

- Virginia Dorwaldt

Phyllis Rosenblum: Vegetable Gardening 101

Phyllis Rosenblum, a Master Gardener Volunteer since 1977, covered the basics of starting a vegetable garden. The most important step is choosing the correct site for the garden. You want full sun (6 hours between 10 am - 4 pm is good), well-drained soil, simple access to water, and good soil – the ideal is loam with a pH of 6.4-6.8.

The vegetables can be divided into 4 groups which should be rotated every year to reduce the chance of disease:

1. Tomatoes, Eggplants, Peppers
2. Broccoli, Kale, Cabbage
3. Beans, Legumes
4. Cucumbers, Squash

Vegetables that can be planted early in the spring are lettuces, spinach, kale, radishes, leeks, and onion sets. Warm weather crops usually are planted sometime between May 15-30.

A good way to make use of a small space is inter-cropping, planting earlier small plants among larger late ones and successive planting of cold/warm/cold weather plants.

The question of whether to use chemicals in the garden was raised. Phyllis cautioned that, if used, it is important to educate yourself, reading the label and applying the proper concentration at the proper time. Since we aren't dependent on the crops we grow in our gardens, maybe we don't need to use chemicals.

Raised beds can be built of cement blocks, bricks, stone, or wood. They should contain 6-8 inches of soil. She cautioned not to start too big and that a 4x8 foot size was manageable.

One last tidbit was that you can intersperse vegetable plants (think Swiss chard) in among your flowers.

- Virginia Dorwaldt

The Capital-Hudson Iris Society is sponsoring another fabulous

SIBERIAN IRIS & PERENNIAL SALE

Sunday, May 15th

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

The Capital-Hudson Iris Society presents their annual

Iris Show



Saturday, June 4th

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.

Iris Rhizome Sale

Saturday, August 6th

9:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Faddegon's Nursery

**1140 Troy-Schenectady Road (Route 7), Latham
about 2.5 miles west of I-87 Northway exit 6**



Ready-to-plant rhizomes of bearded irises: tall bearded, medians, miniature tall bearded, standard dwarf bearded and miniature dwarf bearded iris

For information call 518 439-3758 or 952-4995