

Newsletter of the Capital Hudson Iris Society

Volume 24

Number 2

February 2017

** 2017 Calendar * Mark your calendars now!*

Sunday, February 19th, Annual Doldrums Party at the Albany County Cooperative Extension, hosted by Upstate NY Hosta Society. Daylily, Iris and Hosta Societies sponsor this meeting each year. Speaker: Kathy Purdy, nationally known garden writer who will give a talk entitled "Combat Cabin Fever with your Garden." Arrive at 11:00 and bring a luncheon dish or dessert to share and something to add to the door prize table if you can.

Sunday, March 19th, 1:30 p.m. CHIS Meeting, East Greenbush Library, Speaker Bettina Mueller, author of A Tea Garden in Tivoli

March 24-26: Capital District Flower and Garden Show at Hudson Valley Community College.

Wednesday, April 19th: 9:00 – 12:00 Siberian Iris Dig and Potting Party at Euthemia's house, in preparation for May 21st Siberian Iris and Perennial Sale.

Sunday, May 21st: 9:00 – 12:00 Siberian Iris and Perennial Sale, Main Square Shoppes, Delmar, 9-12, rain or shine.

Sunday, May 28th: Annual Bus Trip TBA

Saturday, June 3rd: Iris Show at the Bethlehem Public Library, Delmar, 1-4 pm

Wednesday, August 2nd: 9:00 – 12:00 Rhizome Prep party at Euthemia's in preparation for Rhizome Sale at Faddegon's Saturday, August 5th.

Saturday, August 5th: 9:00 – 12:00 Annual Iris Rhizome Sale at Faddegon's Nursery

Doldrums Party and Speaker Sunday, February 19th, 11:00 a.m.

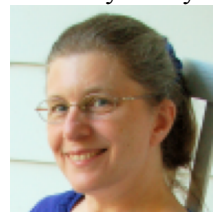
Every year in the middle of February, when we're all feeling down and wishing the sun and warmth would reappear, we have the Doldrums Party at the Albany County Cooperative Extension on Martin Road in Voorheesville. It's a time we get together with the members of the Upstate NY Hosta Society and the Hudson Adirondack Daylily Society to compare notes, eat a great pot-luck luncheon and hear an inspiring speaker. If you haven't been there before, do come, you'll have a good time and meet some interesting people.

Kathy Purdy is our speaker for this year's Doldrums party. She will be telling us how to 'Combat Cabin Fever With Your Garden.' If winter starts too early and spring doesn't come soon enough, if you find yourself pacing indoors and gazing out the window, hoping to see something other than snow, you need to design a garden to view from that window! Kathy will give us tips, techniques, and plants to extend the viewing season, if not the gardening season, in a long-winter climate.

Kathy Purdy is a nationally known garden expert, writer, photographer and speaker. In 2015, she won the prestigious Silver Award of Achievement from the Garden Writers Association for her gardening website, Cold Climate Gardening. Ms. Purdy has been growing colchicums for over twenty years. Charmed by these unusual corms, she has become a colchicum evangelist, converting unsuspecting gardeners into confirmed colchicophiles. (You may have read her article on colchicums in the September/October 2007 issue of The American Gardener.) Ms. Purdy has contributed both articles and photographs to numerous gardening magazines, including The American Gardener, Horticulture, and Fine Gardening. She lives and gardens in Oxford, NY. Visit Kathy's website at www.coldclimategardening.com to see some great photos and interesting write-ups.

Bring a dish to share, main dish, side dish, dessert, something to add to the door prize table if you can, and a friend. Be there between 11 and 11:30, lunch will be served by 12:00 and Kathy's talk will begin after that. If you have any questions, contact Euthemia at euthemia@nycap.rr.com.

Kathy Purdy



Linda says...

Hello All,

We had a great January 22nd meeting with Melanie Mason, who is so knowledgeable about daylilies and had such beautiful slides to show us. I learned a lot about the development of daylilies over the past half-century or so. See Dan Maier's write up on this page for more information. Thank you so much Melanie!

Our next meeting on February 19th will be with our "sister clubs", the Upstate New York Hosta Society and the Hudson Adirondack Daylily Society for our annual "Doldrums Party" at the Albany County Cooperative Extension on Martin Road in Voorheesville. Kathy Purdy, a garden writer and blogger will be the speaker. Come at 11:00, lunch will be at 12 and the speaker soon after. Bring a dish to share and enjoy a great feast. It's a wonderful way to meet other gardeners in the middle of the deep, deep doldrums of winter!

Our March 19th meeting at the East Greenbush Library will feature Bettina Mueller, author of "A Tea Garden in Tivoli." She's an excellent speaker who has transformed her home garden into a beautiful site. You'll want to hear her talk.

I hope to see you at the Doldrums Party! - Linda

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Melanie Mason on Daylilies at January meeting

CHIS ushered in the new year with a lively and informative program on daylilies presented by local hybridizer Melanie Mason. Melanie owns North Country Daylilies in Buskirk, northeast of Troy in the rolling foothills of the Green Mountains. Her program focused on the progression of daylily hybridization from the 1950's onward.

Starting with what was then available (basically low-growing orange and yellow single-petaled varieties), hybridizers tweaked the genus every which way to produce something exciting and different, often with stunning results. Through the process of tetraploidy, blossoms became bigger, wider, sturdier and often double on taller, more vigorous scapes. New colors emerged including creams, violets, deep purple-blacks and reds with eye-catching green and yellow throats. Ruffling and diverse patterning came into vogue.

Now, the pendulum seems to be swinging back the other way to showcase longer narrower petals (spider varieties) complete with horns, teeth, curls and fangs!

We're looking forward to a ride out to Melanie's Long Lesson Farm in late spring to capture a few of these fanged beauties for our own garden!

- Dan Maier

Door Prizes at the Doldrums Party

Many of us have attractive things at home that we just don't use, presents you received for the holidays that you know you will never use but someone else can – these things might be just perfect on the Door Prize table at the Doldrums Party. Please start collecting them now and bring them on Sunday, February 19th, to add to the collection. It's especially good if they are garden related gifts. Great door prizes make the Doldrums Party a whole lot more fun!

*** Join the American Iris Society ***
www.irises.org