

Newsletter of the Capital Hudson Iris Society

Volume 23

Number 6

July – August 2016

2016 Calendar

Thursday, July 7th, Rensselaer County Garden Tour (See attached flyer)

Saturday, July 9th, Hosta Society Big Event, Rick Goodenough on “Ten Best Hostas and Friends.” (See attached flyer)

NOTE DATE CHANGE!

Wednesday, August 3, 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 big sale at Faddegon's on Saturday, August 6th.

Our Big Rhizome Sale!

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. Gorgeous bearded irises of every size at great prices.

Sunday, September 25th, CHIS Bus Trip to Tower Hill Botanic Gardens and John O'Brien's Nursery. Tower Hill is in Boylston, MA and the nursery in Granby, CT. See Linda's column for more info.

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Rhizome Digging-Prep Party Date Change!

We originally planned our Rhizome Digging Party for Saturday, July 30, but that date is impossible this year. So we've changed it to a WEEKDAY, to be held on Wednesday, August 3, from 9-12 at Euthemia Matsoukas' home, 13 Hartwood Road, Delmar. Since many of us are retired, an unscientific survey of members concluded that Wednesday would work. Some people who work plan to take the morning off to be with us! It's a fun and educational morning.

If you are new to the Capital Hudson Iris Society, this is a great example of the cooperative group spirit and team effort for which CHIS is known. It's the day we bring our freshly dug bearded irises to be prepared for the Rhizome Sale at Faddegon's Nursery on Saturday morning, August 6th. Come even if you don't have any irises to contribute, we always need extra hands to help.

Each person who has named irises they want to divide should let Euthemia know what they are by Sunday, 7/17. She will prepare labels and photos for each of the iris bags. If you don't let her know in advance, she can't make labels and photos and the irises won't sell at the sale without them! People want to see what they're buying! Please remember, we only want **named varieties** of irises. If you don't know what your iris is called, don't bring it unless it's PINK. Pink sells no matter what! (We are no longer able to sell **Iris pseudacorus**, the yellow ones that grow so well in swamps, because New York has declared it to be an invasive species. So don't bring them!) If you have questions on whether you should bring an iris, send Euthemia e-mail.

At the prep party, we will take each iris clump, match it to the prepared labels and photos, clip the roots to about 4 inches and trim the leaves to look neat. Each rhizome leaf will then have a label stapled to it with the name, classification, price and description. As the iris is prepared, it is put into the bag with the other irises of the same name. The bag has a photo (if available) and description attached to the front. At the sale, as people file up and down the aisles they are able to look at each iris and decide whether to take one based on the picture and description. Needless to say, those irises with a photo on the bag do really well in the sale. Others usually have to be sold at reduced rates because people don't really know what they are getting. That's why it is so important to let Euthemia know which irises you plan to contribute.

Bring the following items to the prep party: a folding chair to sit on, a folding table (bridge size is good) if you have one, a scissors or dividing knife or garden shears to trim the irises with, gloves if you want to keep your hands clean, staplers, a roll of Scotch tape, and anything else you can think of that will make your job easier. Be prepared to take bags home to keep indoors (not in a hot garage) for the next few days to bring to the sale at Faddegon's at 7:30 a.m. on Saturday, August 6th. **If you need driving instructions to her house or have any questions, call Euthemia at 439-3758.**

Sunday, May 15 at Main Square in Delmar. EVERYTHING went so fast we closed up shop a half-hour early! Thanks to everyone who participated and those who came in droves to buy! We netted about \$2400, which may be a new record for us.

The Iris Show at the Bethlehem Public Library on June 4 was smaller than usual because so many of our irises had passed by with the heat over Memorial Day week. But there were sufficient entries and participants to hold the show and people who came to see it enjoyed it. The winners will be announced in the Region 2 fall newsletter and at our October meeting. Thanks to Kathryn Mohr for all her hard work coordinating the show.

I hope you'll all be able to come to the Iris Dig at Euthemia's home on Wednesday morning, August 3rd, to help prep all the irises for the big sale on Saturday, August 6th. **Those of you who have irises you want to contribute should send a list of their names to Euthemia** by e-mail so that she can prepare the labels and pictures of the irises for the sale bags.

And of course I know you'll want to attend the CHIS Iris Rhizome Sale at Faddegon's Nursery on Saturday morning, August 6th. It will be a great sale this year (as it always is) and I know you won't want to miss it. The flyer attached has all the information – bring a friend!

Our fall bus trip will be to Tower Hill Botanic Garden in Boylston, MA on Sunday, September 25th, with a stop on the way back at John O'Brien's Nursery in Granby, Connecticut (one of our favorites!). Tower Hill will have a special Begonia and Gesneriad Show that weekend as well as their lovely gardens on display. The trip will cost \$50 per person including admission to the Botanic Garden. To sign up, e-mail me with your name and phone number. The address is Linda.Montanaro@gmail.com. We are limited to what the bus holds, 54 people, so get your reservation in early. The bus will be leave at 8:00 am from Crossgates Mall, and we should be back by 7:00 pm. For more details on Tower Hill, go to their website, www.towerhillbg.org.

See you all at the digging party and at the Rhizome Sale!

- Linda

The Annual CHIS Iris Rhizome Sale will be held again at Faddegon's Nursery, 1140 Troy-Schenectady Road (Route 7), in Latham, on Saturday, August 6th from 9-12. This is the sale everyone waits for each year. To make your life easier, bring a box with you to put your rhizomes in as make your selections. There will be bearded irises of all sizes – including miniature dwarf bearded, standard dwarf, intermediate, miniature tall bearded, border bearded and tall bearded irises. All the iris rhizomes come from our member's gardens and are therefore hardy in this growing area. And of course, they're all beautiful!

The irises are arranged by type and will be in bags with a picture and description of the iris. And each iris rhizome you buy has a label with the name and description stapled to it so that you'll know what you're planting and how tall it is expected to grow.

Members should get to Faddegon's by 7:30 a.m. to help organize the many bags of rhizomes that we will have prepared at the rhizome prep party on Wednesday, August 3rd (see page 1).

Faddegon's is located at 1140 Troy-Schenectady Road (Route 7) in Latham. If you take the Northway (I-87), get off at Exit 6, Faddegon's is 2.5 miles west on Route 7. Call Euthemia at 439-3758 with questions.

Send Your List Now!

Those of you who have rhizomes to bring to the Digging Party on August 3rd should send your list to Euthemia as soon as possible, but no later than July 17th. She'll then be able to prepare labels and the pictures for the bags so that our customers will know what they're getting. If you have any questions, call Euthemia at 439-3758 or send her an e-mail note.

Two Special Events

See the attached flyers for the Rensselaer County Master Gardeners Garden Tour on Thursday, July 7th, and the Upstate New York Hosta Society event with Rick Goodenough on Saturday, July 9th. Two events not to miss!

See Linda's column for information on the September 24 bus trip to Tower Hill Botanic Garden in Boylston, MA and John O'Brien's Nursery in Granby, CT

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

Cornell Cooperative Extension
of Rensselaer County
Master Gardeners
present

Garden Tour 2016

Thursday, July 7th, 4 to 8 PM

In Greater North Greenbush



Visit private home gardens and learn from fellow gardeners. This drive-it-yourself tour features over ten homes with container ideas, rain gardens, dry stream beds, raised beds, vegetables, gardens with an Asian aesthetic and much more.



**Admission \$10.00 per person
\$30.00 per car for 3 or more people**

**Maps sold from 4 to 7 PM on July 7th at
Pat's Barn, Rensselaer Technology Park,
110 Defreest Drive, Troy, NY 12180**

Individuals with questions or special needs requiring accommodation should contact Cornell Cooperative Extension at (518) 272-4210 or dhc3@cornell.edu. Cornell Cooperative Extension is an employer and educator recognized for valuing AA/EEO, Protected Veterans, and Individuals with Disabilities and provides equal program and employment opportunities..

Join us for a fantastic educational presentation...

"Ten Best Hostas and Friends"

by Rick Goodenough

American Hosta Society Facebook Moderator



Saturday, July 9th (Lecture at 12:30 pm)

Cornell Cooperative Extension (CCE) of Albany County

24 Martin Road, Voorheesville, NY 12186

This informative educational presentation is co-sponsored by the Upstate New York Hosta Society (UNYHS) and the Hudson Adirondack Daylily Society (HADS).

E-mail UNYHS@aol.com for more information or call Dave at [\(518\) 393-0905](tel:5183930905)

“**Ten Best Hostas and Friends**” is an illustrated lecture by one of the more visible names in Hosta hybridizing, Rick Goodenough from the Boston area. He will be discussing three engaging segments, the Ten Best Hostas ever introduced, the Ten Best Hostas he has introduced and the Ten Best Woodland Perennials for the shade garden. Rick will cover why they made his list and other anecdotal and cultural points along the way. There will be ample time for questions and answers after each segment of the presentation.

There will also be several local Vendors on site selling a variety of perennials from 11:30 am to 12:30 pm and continuing for an hour after the lecture. You are also encouraged to visit the beautiful Display Gardens in all their Glory behind the Cooperative Extension Building either before or after the lecture. There are twenty-two different gardens, designed and maintained by CCE Master Gardeners that give visitors examples of practices and plants that can be adapted to the home environment. Each garden demonstrates a distinctive feature of design or maintenance, and showcases plantings that are appropriate for the Capital District region. Plantings include trees and shrubs as well as annuals and perennials. (You will see a Conifer, Vegetable, Native Plant and Blue & White Garden as well as others!)