

Newsletter of the Capital Hudson Iris Society

Volume 24

Number 3

March 2017

** 2017 Calendar ** *Mark your calendars now!*

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, April 23rd: 1:30 p.m., CHIS Meeting, East Greenbush Library, Speaker TBA

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

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

Bettina Mueller on Creating a Japanese Tea Garden

Our speaker on Sunday, March 19th will be Bettina Mueller, author of the acclaimed and beautiful garden book “A Tea Garden in Tivoli.” Drawing from her decades-long study of the Japanese Tea Tradition where great—even legendary—gardens are small by necessity, Bettina Mueller set out in 2005 to turn her backyard in the small Hudson Valley village of Tivoli, New York, into a private world of beauty and tranquility.

“I built a small tea house in the backyard which had no trees or plantings. It was a bare patch of ground surrounded by neighbors. Drawing from my decades-long study of the Japanese tea ceremony tradition I set out to build a roji—a traditional tea garden—to lead to the tea house. My challenge was to make it feel as though it had always been there. Besides the tea house, there are two important destinations in the garden: a waiting bench and a stone water basin for rinsing one’s hands before a tea ceremony. The planting is mostly evergreen with non-flowering deciduous trees and shrubs. There are ferns and grasses that lend the feel of a path through the mountains. They say the way to the tea house should feel as though you leave the dust of the world behind.”

Come to the Sunday, March 19th meeting at 1:30 p.m. at the East Greenbush Community Library and learn about the design elements that make a roji or tea garden work, and concepts you can employ that help your garden integrate with the neighborhood. Even if you’re not going to create your own Japanese Tea garden, you will marvel at the beauty Bettina Mueller has created and perhaps be able to use a few of her ideas in your own garden. Bring a friend to enjoy with you and a snack to share with the group. If you need driving directions, contact Euthemia at euthemia@nycap.rr.com.



Hello All,

We all enjoyed meeting with our “sister clubs”, the Upstate New York Hosta Society and the Hudson Adirondack Daylily Society for the annual “Doldrums Party” at the Albany County Cooperative Extension on Martin Road in Voorheesville on February 19th. Kathy Purdy, a garden writer and blogger was a really interesting speaker and we all learned a lot about winter interest in the garden. The food was fabulous, as usual, and as if by magic, spring appeared the next week. However, we know it isn’t real...darn.

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.

Friday, March 24 – Sunday, March 26th is the Capital District Flower and Garden Show at Hudson Valley Community College. We again have tables where we answer questions and distribute flyers about our sales and shows. If you want to “man” a table for a two hour period, contact Cindi Jones at cindijones58@gmail.com. There are also some free admission tickets available for people who agree to help.

There are two events in April, one is the Siberian Iris Digging Party at Euthemia’s on Wednesday morning, April 19th at 9:00 a.m. It’s when we bring our dug-up Siberians to be prepped and potted for the Siberian Iris and Perennial Sale at Main Square in Delmar on May 21st. Then on April 23rd will be our regular meeting. Dan will let us know about the program in the next newsletter.

See you on March 19th! - Linda

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**Kathy Purdy at the
Doldrums Party**

Good food, good friends and an enthusiastic speaker were the hallmarks of this year's Winter Doldrums get-together hosted by UNYHS. Kathy Purdy, who has a website and blog, www.coldclimategardening.com, gave a well-received presentation on winter gardens, focusing on things we can do to enhance the monotony and bleakness of our snow-covered gardens in upstate New York. Color, texture, structure, and patterns of shade and light all work together to make a more inspired and harmonious landscape.

Kathy suggested we start small, enhancing the view from one particular window in the house and gradually expand outward. I enjoyed seeing the plants she chose to extend the garden season, such as late-blooming autumn crocuses and early winter aconites. It's always a pleasure to meet with fellow gardeners in the dead of winter and talk about the promise of another garden season.
- Dan Maier

Help Needed at the Capital District Flower and Garden Show

Every year we rent a table at the Capital District Flower and Garden Show at Hudson Valley Community College. We join with the Hudson Adirondack Daylily Society and the Upstate NY Hosta Society to hand out information on our clubs, meetings, and events, and to answer questions from the public on flower gardening.

If you would like to help work the table at the show, contact Cindi Jones of HADS who is coordinating the effort. Her email is cindijones58@gmail.com. There are 2-hour slots available for sign up, two people to a slot. Cindi will let you know what time slots are available. There are also a limited number of free admission tickets for people who volunteer.

Just remember, it’s really fun to sit and help people with their questions and let them know about our activities. Some of our most active new members have learned about us through this yearly show!

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www.irises.org**