

Newsletter of the Capital Hudson Iris Society

Volume 23

Number 9

November-December 2016

2016 - 2017 Calendar

Sunday, November 20th, CHIS Meeting and Holiday Party, East Greenbush Library, 1:00 (**earlier than usual!**). **Marty Shafer and Jan Sacks, world-famous iris hybridizers will be the speakers.** Their talk is entitled "What's New at Joe Pye Weed's Garden: Siberians and..." In addition, we are making this our **HOLIDAY PARTY** so bring a special dish for holiday cheer.

December: No Meeting. Holiday Party is during the big November meeting.

Sunday, January 22nd, CHIS Meeting, East Greenbush Library, Speaker TBA.

Sunday, February 19th, Annual Doldrums Party at the Albany County Cooperative Extension, hosted by Upstate NY Hosta Society. Times and speaker TBA.

Sunday, March 19th, CHIS Meeting, East Greenbush Library, Speaker TBA

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Marty and Jan and Holiday Party on Sunday, November 20th

A plethora of riches! That's what Sunday, November 20th will bring to the CHIS meeting/holiday party at 1:00 p.m. at the East Greenbush Community Library. Marty Shafer and Jan Sacks of Joe Pye Weed's Garden in Carlisle, MA will be our guest speakers with a talk on their latest hybridizing activities entitled "**What's New at Joe Pye Weed's Garden: Siberians and...**" As the title implies, ever-creative Marty and Jan have been stepping out and experimenting beyond Siberian irises. There will be sure to be beautiful slides to excite you and whet your appetite for next spring's plantings.

For those who don't know them, Marty and Jan are considered by many to be the foremost hybridizers of Siberian irises in the world. They have won numerous awards from the American Iris Society over the years. Just this year they won the Morgan-Wood Medal for the best Siberian Iris "Ginger Twist", and then won the first three runners up in the same category, "Berries and Cream", "Miss Apple", and "Sugar Bush"! They also won the Founders of Signa Medal for Species irises for "Dick Redfield", and a first runner up for "Tourist." You can view all these irises on www.jpwflowers.com.

We're making this our end of the year holiday party to avoid the December rush, so bring a festive dish to share. CHIS will provide the paper goods and beverages. If you want to participate in the gift exchange, bring a wrapped gift in the \$15 price range and take home one for yourself. At the October meeting, we approved \$300 for door prizes of gift certificates from a range of iris growers throughout the country.

For those who have never partaken, this is a festive event not to be missed. CHIS has some serious cooks and everyone tries to bring something they really consider their specialty. There will be all sorts of hot luncheon items, side dishes, salads, and desserts. Please bring your dish in a microwavable container if it needs to be heated, or ovenproof if you want it in the oven for a few minutes. It's easier if it already comes in warm. And don't forget the serving implements needed for your dish. If you have any inspirations for **table centerpieces**, please by all means create them. And we would appreciate any **festive tablecloths** you can bring. Anything to help make the room look ready for a party is appreciated.

Any questions about the Holiday Party should be directed to Euthemia. Call her at 439-3758 or email her at euthemiamatsoukas@gmail.com. Come to the party and bring a friend – the more the merrier! Remember, the festivities begin at 1:00, as soon as the library opens. If you need driving directions, consult a past newsletter or contact Euthemia.

Linda says...

Hello All,

We were so happy to have Eli Joseph-Hunter and Briana Davis talk about Hydrangeas at the October 16th meeting. The talk was great, the plants they brought to sell were gorgeous, and many of us were out there planting just as soon as we got home. Thank you Eli and Briana!

Our next meeting will be our Early Holiday Party on November 20th with special guest speakers Marty Shafer and Jan Sacks of Joe Pye Weed's Garden in Carlisle, MA. They are our favorites and will be yours too. Bring a dish to share and a friend, too. There will be a gift exchange and door prizes (gift certificates from iris growers around the country.) See the article on Page 1 for detailed information.

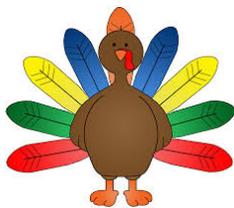
December will be a free month for us, with no meetings or sales. That's because we're all always so busy we don't have time for another holiday party. November will more than make up for it.

Our dates for the first three months of next year have been set up with the Library, so please add them to your calendar. And don't forget the Doldrums Party on Sunday, February 19th, at the Albany County Cooperative Extension, an annual event including the Iris Society, Daylily Society and the Hosta Society. This year Hosta will be hosting the event and they've already got their speaker arranged for. We'll have more information in the January newsletter.

Meanwhile, if you have any ideas for speakers, please let me know.

I look forward to seeing you all at our great November 20th meeting!

- Linda



Eli Joseph-Hunter on October 16th

The first meeting of the new season brought old friends Eli Joseph Hunter and Brianna Davis of Greene Bee Greenhouse in Cornwallville back to our midst. Eli presented a wonderful program on hydrangeas supplemented with stunning photos, many of which were taken in the young couple's garden.

Although most folks equate hydrangeas with the macrophylla species, Eli explained that that particular variety does not perform consistently well in our area. Instead, he recommended we look for more tried-and-true species like *arborescens*, *serrata*, *paniculata* and *quercifolia*. These types are hardier and sport a profusion of flowers in mophead, lacecap and globed-shaped forms.

Following the program there was a virtual feeding frenzy as CHIS members descended on the plant selection the couple had hauled up from their nursery in Greene County. There were trees, shrubs, perennials, and, yes, even hydrangeas to be scooped up and taken home for fall planting. It sure felt like Christmas came early this year!
- Dan Maier

October Business Meeting

Linda Knipper welcomed the six new meeting attendees. Kathryn Mohr reported on the Region 2 meeting she had just returned from in Western New York that morning. Kathryn will be serving as Assistant Regional Vice President to RVP Dorothy Stiefel. The group voted to send \$300 to Region 2 for operating expenses as our contribution for the year. Don Salhoff reports that we have about \$13,000 in our treasury because of the strong sales in May and August. There will be an iris show in either late May or June 3 next year. This year's iris show awards were announced: Virginia Dorwaldt won the McGarvey award for the best Siberian iris, and also won the silver medal for the most blue ribbons. Euthemia Matsoukas won the bronze medal for second most blue ribbons and Kathryn Mohr won Best in Show.
- Virginia Dorwaldt

