

# Newsletter of the Capital Hudson Iris Society

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## *2016 Calendar*

**Sunday, October 16th**, 1:30 p.m. CHIS Meeting, East Greenbush Library, Eli Hunter-Joseph and Briana Davis of Greene Bee Greenhouse with a talk entitled "If Hydrangeas Be the Flower of Summer, Plant On!" They will also be bringing plants for sale!

**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. See article on page 2 and in November's newsletter.

**December:** No Meeting. Holiday Party is during the big November meeting. See Linda's column and article on page 2.

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## "If Hydrangeas Be the Flower of Summer, Plant On!" with Eli Joseph-Hunter and Briana Davis

We're bringing back as our guest speakers Eli Joseph-Hunter and Briana Davis of the Greene Bee Greenhouse in Cornwallville, NY. Eli and Briana have a beautiful nursery in the northeast part of Greene County and are very knowledgeable growers. They will give a talk entitled "If Hydrangeas be the Flower of Summer, Plant On!" Hydrangeas are a special love of theirs and we are sure to learn some great tips on what selections do best in our gardens. In addition, they will also be **bringing a mix of shrubs and perennials with fall interest, and probably a handful of different Hydrangeas for sale!** Bring your checkbook or cash because you know their plants are not to be missed. And since they're already in pots, you'll be able to put them right into the ground without missing a beat.

Greene Bee Greenhouse is an uncertified organic nursery specializing in growing select trees and shrubs as well as perennials and vegetable seedlings. It is located about 40 minutes southwest of Albany in the foothills of the Catskills outside Greenville. Eli and Briana strive to cultivate a healthy ecology from the soil up by using copious amounts of compost and only organic fertilizers, promoting a biologically diverse soil system that supports sustained and healthy plant growth. They grow and sell plants that, to the best of their knowledge, co-exist peacefully with the indigenous species of our region, while simultaneously striving to offer a broad and unique variety.

The meeting begins at 1:30 p.m. with coffee and cake (bring something to share, we'll provide the beverages). There will be a short business meeting at 2:00 and the speakers will begin right after that. The East Greenbush Community Library is located two blocks east of the intersection of Route 4 and Route 151 in East Greenbush, just south of Exit 9 of I-90. Call 439-3758 if you need driving instructions or go to the library website. And please bring a friend!

**Marty and Jan are coming for our  
special November meeting!  
See the article on Page 2**

Our bus trip to Tower Hill Botanic Garden in Boylston, MA on Sunday, September 25<sup>th</sup>, with a stop on the way back at John O'Brien's Nursery in Granby, Connecticut, was really fun. Tower Hill is just beautiful and I want to go back there when we have more time. Many of us loaded the bus with great buys at both Tower Hill and at John O'Brien's Nursery in Granby, CT on the way home. It was great too see so many new participants on the bus and we hope you will come to our meetings, as well.

We're so happy to have Eli Joseph-Hunter and Briana Davis talk about Hydrangeas at the October 16<sup>th</sup> meeting. If you haven't heard them before, you're in for a great treat – they are both very knowledgeable and bring wonderful plants for us to buy.

Marty Shafer and Jan Sacks will be back for our November 20<sup>th</sup> meeting that will also include special food for our annual holiday celebration (bring nothing too big, just a little something extra-special). Marty and Jan were our guest speakers at the Region 2 meeting we sponsored in November 2014 as well as in October 2013 (and other years). They are our favorites and will be yours too, if you don't already know them.

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.

We're in the process of establishing the programs for our January through April meetings, so let me know if you have any great ideas for speakers. Thanks!

- Linda

### **Save Medium and Large Pots**

CHIS will need medium and large plastic pots for our Siberian Iris and Perennial Sale next May, so keep them in your garage until spring. Believe it or not, we ran out of larger pots for perennial dividing last year! Please don't throw them away this year. Euthemia will be collecting them come spring!

**Shafer/Sacks Help us Bring  
on the Holiday Season on  
November 20th**

The Sunday, November 20<sup>th</sup> meeting will be one not to miss! Marty Shafer and Jan Sacks from Joe Pye Weed's Garden in Carlisle, Massachusetts, will be our guest speakers with a talk entitled "**What's New at Joe Pye Weed's Garden: Siberians and....**" They are our favorite speakers and it's been two years since we've had the opportunity to hear what's going on with their ever-creative hybridizing program. It's not just Siberians any more!

**We're making this our end of the year holiday party** to avoid the December rush, so bring a festive dish to share. (There will be no December meeting.) 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. There may be some other surprises as well.

Next month's edition of the newsletter will have more particulars about Marty and Jan and other activities that will take place at the November meeting. Be sure to add this meeting to your calendar now!

### **Our trip to Tower Hill Botanical Garden**

We couldn't have asked for a better fall day as we travelled by bus to destination gardens in Massachusetts and Connecticut last Sunday. Our first stop was at Tower Hill Botanic Garden in Boylston, Massachusetts, where some of us took a guided tour of the still vibrant display gardens, while others admired the juried Begonia and Gesneriad show on site. The garden also offered hayrides on a horse-drawn wagon, tastings of local honey and heirloom apples and a live alpaca encounter!

From Boylston we travelled southwest to Granby, Connecticut and the ever-popular garden/nursery of John O'Brien. Despite the prolonged summer drought in the area, John's gardens were spectacular as always. Part of the allure of visiting O'Brien's Nurserymen is the fact that you can go home with many of the plants on display in the extensive gardens. Hence, our delight in finding a beautiful gold-leaved Japanese maple we admired in the garden! Sometimes wishes really do come true...

- Dan Maier