

# Newsletter of the



# Capital Hudson Iris Society

Volume 24

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November-December 2017

*\* 2017 - 2018 Calendars \*  
Mark your calendars now!*

**Sunday, November 19<sup>th</sup>: 1:00 p.m.**, CHIS Holiday Party at the East Greenbush Community Library. Pot luck luncheon, bring a wrapped gift if you'd like to participate in the gift exchange, door prizes include gift certificates to iris growers and garden centers. See article on this page.

**December:** No meeting.

**Sunday, January 28, 2018:** 1:30 p.m. CHIS Meeting, East Greenbush Community Library. **Speaker: Emily DeBolt, owner of Fiddlehead Creek Native Plant Nursery** in Washington County will give a talk entitled "Go Native: An Introduction to Gardening with Native Plants".

**February meeting: Doldrums Party** at Albany County Cooperative Extension, Martin Road, in Voorheesville. Hosted by Hudson-Adirondack Daylily Society. Date, times and details TBA.

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**Join the American Iris Society**  
[www.irises.org](http://www.irises.org)

## Annual Holiday Party Sunday, November 19 at 1:00

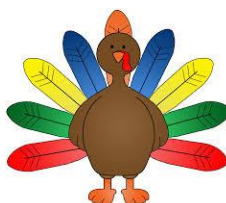
The Sunday, November 19<sup>th</sup>, 1:00 p.m. meeting of the Capital Hudson Iris Society will be our annual Holiday Party at the East Greenbush Community Library. Please come and bring a friend and a dish to share for the delicious potluck luncheon. Do remember that we begin early, at 1:00 p.m.

**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 you'll get to take home one for yourself. At the October meeting, we approved \$300 for door prizes of gift certificates from a range of iris growers and local nurseries.

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 **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 Linda Knipper or Joanne Maier (phone numbers and emails on the left side of this page). Come to the party and bring a friend – there is always lots of food and the more the merrier! **Remember, the festivities begin at 1:00**, when the library opens.

The East Greenbush Community Library is located on Community Way off Michaels Road in East Greenbush, New York. If you need driving directions to the library, you can go online to [www.eastgreenbushlibrary.org](http://www.eastgreenbushlibrary.org), hit "contact us" and in the lower right corner is a map and a way to access directions.



## Linda says...

Hello all –

Our October speaker, Doug Paschall from the Historic Iris Preservation Society, gave us a great talk on their project to save historic irises. Many of us were inspired to grow historic irises and also to try to identify the historic we might already be growing. It was also a good reminder to keep a map of what we plant as well as labeling carefully everything we put into the ground!

On Sunday, November 19<sup>th</sup> we will have our annual Holiday Party. We decided last year to move the party from early December to before Thanksgiving because December is always over-booked. The Holiday Party is a great potluck luncheon where we all bring our favorite dishes, be it a casserole, side dish, salad, appetizer or dessert. CHIS is known for great parties, in part because we have a lot of really good cooks in our midst. There will also be a gift exchange and gift certificate door prizes. Euthemia has reminded me that she will not be at the holiday party, so everyone with experience in setting it up, please come right at 1:00 so we can start right away! For more information, see the article on Page 1.

I'm very excited about January's presentation by Emily DeBolt of Fiddlehead Creek Native Plant Nursery in Hartford, New York (that's in Washington County, northeast of Saratoga going towards Vermont). She's very knowledgeable and we all need some help in helping our gardens to "go native." There will be more information in our January newsletter.

As you all know, we are always looking for speakers for our meetings. Let me know if you have any ideas, or if you go to a meeting or class where there is a particularly interesting talk. You can write me a note on email (see the front page for my address). Thanks!

- Linda



Joanne Maier gives Youth Awards to Mason Drummer and Max Mohr

## Iris Rescue Program

We've all heard of animal rescue but most of us hadn't realized that there is a movement to rescue irises! Doug Paschall came to us in October from near Philadelphia to talk about the Guardian Gardens Program under the aegis of the Historic Iris Preservation Society.

Plants adopted into Guardian Gardens are grown expressly for increase and dissemination to other program participants and to botanical gardens, ensuring each variety the safety of numbers and wide dispersal in permanent, attentive care. After those core populations are thriving, further increase will be steered into public circulation with the greater exposure and appeal that their rescue brings.

Most of us were sad to see how many beautiful irises have been "lost"; but there were also examples of old irises that the program has now "found". We even saw irises that some of us think are growing in our gardens that we may be able to contribute to the program!

Doug urged us all to keep maps of where we plant irises, to have garden labels both above and under the ground (for when those pesky animals or rakes dislodge our above-ground signs). Keeping track of what we have is the first step in preserving irises for the future. - EM

(For more on the Guardian Gardens program go to: <https://www.historiciris.org/guardian-gardens-a-turnaround/> In addition, a lovely article is in the English publication, *Gardenista*: <https://www.gardenista.com/posts/bearded-irises-a-lost-generation-of-flowers-has-a-moment/> )

## October Business Meeting

Dan Maier will buy \$300 worth of gift certificates for door prizes at the Annual Holiday Party on November 19. The certificates will include some more generic nurseries as well as iris growers.

Kathryn Mohr distributed the awards from the June 2017 Iris Show, including Best in Show (Kathryn Mohr), Magdalen Award for Best Median (Kathryn Mohr), Kathryn Mohr Award for Best Historic Iris (Virginia Dorwaldt), Bob and Ann Keup Award for Best Tall Bearded (Euthemia Matsoukas), and Founders Award for Most Blue Ribbons by a Novice (Suzanne Perry). Euthemia and Kathryn won medals for most first place and most second place ribbons. **The hits of the afternoon** were the Youth Awards given for Best Youth Specimen (Max Mohr), Youth Silver Medal for highest number of 1<sup>st</sup> place ribbons (Max Mohr) and Youth Bronze Medal for second highest number of 1<sup>st</sup> place ribbons (Mason Drummer). These kids are GREAT! (See picture on left.)