

Greater Rochester Iris Society
an affiliate of the American Iris Society
July 2015 newsletter, Cara Hutchings, editor

I hope everyone has had a great 4th! I know I have been enjoying the weather (no rain!) and have been working in my garden all weekend!

We had a terrific show at Marketplace Mall in May, with a very good turnout. Our picnic was also a lot of fun, at Neil's house in June. Everyone enjoyed touring his garden, and there was lots of good food, conversation and prizes! Don't forget, all our new members receive a free iris out of Neil's garden!

The next major event is our sale. We will be having a two-day sale, July 25th and 26th from 11-3 pm, at Gro-Moore farms on E. Henrietta Rd. So we will need lots of plants for this two-day event. We will be selling perennials of all types, but most especially iris. So, start potting up any perennials you would like to sell, and start looking over your iris.

The perennials should have the type, variety (if known), light, soil and moisture requirements, and bloom time and color. I save the tags from my annual purchases and use the backside of them. Or you can write the info on the pot. Either way, make sure you use a Sharpie or permanent marker.

The irises are treated differently. The whole clump of iris should be dug up, and then sorted through. Cut off the rhizomes that have bloomed, because they will not bloom again. You can cut the foliage down about 6-8 inches. Write the name of the iris on the foliage using a permanent marker, and the type (TB for tall bearded, SDB for standard dwarf bearded, etc.) and if possible the falls' and standards' colors. Then wash off any excess dirt, check them over for borer damage, getting rid of as much as you can, and dip them into a 10% bleach solution. Don't forget to plant at least one back into your garden! All bearded and beardless types of iris should be done this way, including Siberians and Japanese. Those then have an extra step, since they like to be kept moist, please take a baggie and add a wet towel or jell beads and put the Siberians and Japanese in the baggie. I do have jell beads, and I will make sure to bring them to the sale, if you just have a wet towel in the baggie.

If you email Neil (neil.houghton@me.com) ahead of time, with the names and numbers of each iris you have, he will be more than happy to print out pictures of the iris. They do sell a lot better that way!

GRIS members will be mailed this newsletter along with a copy of our sale flyer. Please post it at your local library, senior center, etc. If you need more flyers, please email Neil (see above email) and he will send it to you so you can print it out.

I had spoken briefly at our April meeting about a trip to Enchantment Acres with the Genesee Valley Hosta Society. It will be taking place on Saturday, August 1st. We will be meeting at the Holt Road Wegmans' parking lot in Webster at 9:30 am, where we will car pool/caravan from there. Donna and Ron James, long time AIS members who live near Syracuse, own this garden. They have a great garden with miniature railroad tracks running throughout. I have only seen it in winter, so I for one am looking forward to seeing it in summer.

On the way home, we will be stopping at Grandpa's Nursery in Sodus, where we will be receiving a 5% discount. If you are going, please bring your own lunch and drinks.

The next regular meeting of the Society will take place on September 13th, at 2pm at St. John's Episcopal Church, 11 Episcopal Ave. Honeoye Falls, NY. Neil Houghton will be talking about the AIS convention he attended earlier this year. We will also be accepting nominations for elections for officers this year, if anyone has an interest in running, please let us know then.

Our last meeting of the year will take place on October 11th, again at 2 pm at St. John's Episcopal Church. We will be having elections, budget approval, and end of the year discussions. Bring pictures of your gardens and ideas for next year! We will be having a white elephant (or as I like to say, white iris) gift exchange.

Don't forget our website – rochesteriris.blogspot.com and Yahoo groups!