

**Greater Rochester Iris Society
(an affiliate of the American Iris Society)**

**March 2017 Newsletter
Cara Hutchings ed.**

What a difference 24 hours can make here in Rochester! Just yesterday, I wanted to go outside and enjoy the spring like weather we were having, and today, it is snowy and cold! Well, that is western NY for you.

Our first meeting of the year will be on March 12 at 2 pm at St. John's Episcopal Church Hall, 11 Episcopal Ave., Honeoye Falls, NY. We will be having Charlie Zettek, a Rochester grower and hybridizer of daylilies, who will give a talk on: "Daylilies the Way I See Them"

Charlie Zettek is a local daylily (hemerocallis) hybridizer who has a different take on the focus of most hybridizers. The results of Charlie's work and wonder "urban garden" of beautiful blooms. He is located by Cobbs Hill Park. Join us to meet a great guy. Share his expertise and get on his list for open garden dates. Most of us grow iris and daylilies together, so this is a great chance to see the other side of our favorite flower!

THIS IS THE SUNDAY OF DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME; SO DON'T FORGET TO CHANGE YOUR CLOCKS FORWARD ONE HOUR SO YOU DON'T MISS THIS GREAT TALK!

Some dates to put on your calendar now:

April 9 – 2 pm meeting – let's get out our catalogs and take a good look at our gardens for the spring planning and cleanup, share your favorite iris-boosting tip.

June 4 – Annual Iris show at Marketplace Mall

June 11 – Annual member picnic at Brenda Fox's gardens

July 23-24 – tentative – Annual iris sale at Gro-Moore farms

September 10 – 2 pm meeting – Median Iris program with insight and commentary by Wendy Roller

October 8 – 2 pm meeting – a more in-depth look at Japanese Iris with an eye towards---

October 20-21 – Hosting of the annual Region 2 Fall meeting with Chad Harris, an expert Japanese Iris hybridizer.

We are also planning a possible trip to the Royal Botanical Gardens in Toronto, plus some garden tours, etc. So – stay active in GRIS and you can be a part of all the events!

Tip of the times: As spring starts to warm up, your iris need to have all those dead leaves and fans cleaned up around them if you didn't do so already. As Wendy has reminded us, maple leaves are very impermeable, so get those out of your garden in fall if possible, and the oak leaves you can leave until spring. This will help keep borer insects at bay, since they like to hibernate in the debris around your iris.