

Newsletter of the Capital Hudson Iris Society

Volume 23

Number 4

April 2016

2016 Calendar

Sunday, April 10th, Meeting, 1:30 p.m.,
East Greenbush Library, Phyllis Rosenblum
on "Growing Vegetables"

Saturday, April 16th, 9:00 a.m. - noon,
Rain date Sunday, April 17th: **Siberian Dig
and Potting Party** at Euthemia's house,
bring clumps of named Siberian irises to be
divided and potted for our May 15th Sale.

Sunday, May 15th, 9 – noon. **Siberian Iris
and Perennial Sale**, Main Square Shoppes,
318 Delaware Avenue, Delmar.

**May 23-May 28: American Iris Society
Convention** in New Jersey/Pennsylvania.
Most of us will go on Wednesday, returning
Sunday morning. For full information, go to
<http://ais2016convention.com>.

Saturday, June 4, Annual Iris Show,
Bethlehem Public Library. Open to the
public from 2-4 p.m. An opportunity to
show your prized named irises. Contact
Kathryn Mohr for additional info at 952-
4995.

CHIS Contacts

CHIS Chair: *Linda Knipper,*
Linda.Montanaro@gmail.com
518 377-4987

Vice Chairs: *Dan and Joanne Maier,*
Danjomaier@gmail.com
518 449-8480

Secretary: *Virginia Dorwaldt,*
vmdorwaldt@gmail.com
518 439-3110

Treasurer: *Don Salhoff,*
driris2000@hotmail.com
518 439-1484

Newsletter editor: *Euthemia Matsoukas,*
EuthemiaMatsoukas@gmail.com
518 439-3758

Iris Show Chair: *Kathryn Mohr,*
kemohrke@aol.com
518 952-4995

Phyllis Rosenblum on April 10th, "Growing Vegetables"

Master Gardener Phyllis Rosenblum will be our speaker at the Sunday, April 10th meeting of the Capital Hudson Iris Society at the East Greenbush Library. Many of you remember Phyllis from her garden columns in the Albany Times Union for many years, and for the wonderful talk on "Perennial Gardening in the New Normal" she gave to our group two years ago.

This time she'll give a talk on "Growing Vegetables" particularly designed for people who are dedicated flower gardeners but also appropriate for those who have been growing veggies for a long time.

Phyllis Rosenblum has been a volunteer in the Master Gardener Program in Albany County since its inception over 35 years ago. An Altamont resident, she is a graduate of SUNY Cobleskill. One of her many activities these days is to help new Habitat for Humanity homeowners plan their gardens. She's very knowledgeable and an excellent presenter/teacher, so we hope you'll be able to come. We open at 1:30. Bring a friend! Call Euthemia for directions.

Siberian Iris Dig on Saturday, April 16th

I suppose you've noticed that everything (EVERYTHING!) is coming up early this year, and our irises are popping out of the ground as this article is being typed! So it won't be too early to dig your named Siberians and bring your clumps (well marked) to the Dig at Euthemia's house (13 Hartwood Road, Delmar, 439-3758) on **Saturday morning, April 16th**, from 9-12. That's just three weeks from when you get this newsletter!

You might want to go out in the next few days to check out your developing Siberians to decide what you need to dig. Bring your clumps well marked and tools you use to divide (knives, gloves, etc.), as well as a chair and bridge table if you've got one. Put the clumps into plastic supermarket bags and dampen them with a little water and they'll keep very well overnight. Come to the dig even if you have no irises to contribute – we need you! We'll have plenty of pots, lots of Pro-Mix for potting the irises, and good coffee and bagels for nourishment. If you can send Euthemia a list of the irises you plan to dig by April 11, that will be helpful because she can make pot labels in advance. This is how we get our great Siberian irises for the upcoming Siberian Iris and Perennial Sale on Sunday, May 15th at Main Square Parking Lot in Delmar. Because they come from our gardens, we can sell them very cheaply! Call 439-3758 for more information.

At our meeting on Sunday, March 20th, our own Virginia Dorwaldt and her Master Gardener collaborator, Ronnie Siegel, gave a great talk on composting, including a new method (for me), Bokashi. They also brought a worm composting bin and it was fascinating to see what great work the worms do in a relatively short time. Thanks so much Virginia and Ronnie for such an interesting and useful talk.

In just a couple of weeks, on **Sunday, April 10th**, Phyllis Rosenblum, another Master Gardener and former Times Union Garden Columnist, will give a talk about Vegetable Gardening. As flower gardeners, many of us need a little pep talk on how to venture into the veggie department – I will be looking for ways of integrating veggies into the flower garden as well!

On **Saturday, April 16th**, is our all-important Siberian Iris Dig at Euthemia's house in Delmar. We need as much help as possible, and you don't have to be an expert – there will be experienced "potters" to show you what to do. If you have irises to contribute, send Euthemia a note about which irises you plan to dig so that she can make up pot labels beforehand. The most important thing is that you come, whether you have irises to contribute or not. We need lots of hands to make the day a short one!

Don't forget that the **American Iris Society Convention** will be held in New Jersey and Pennsylvania this May. For detailed information on the convention, and for the registration forms and the full Event Schedule, log onto www.ais2016convention.com. If you don't have internet access, contact Euthemia and she'll get you the forms.

Let me know if you have ideas for a good fall bus trip, since we are skipping the spring one this year because of the AIS convention.

See you on April 10th! - Linda

***Please post attached flyers
or e-mail them to your friends!***

"Composting" on 3/20

To verm or not to verm? That was the question posed to CHIS members on Sunday, March 20, by Master Gardeners Virginia Dorwaldt and Ronnie Siegel. The dynamic duo did an in-depth presentation on composting based on their years of experience both as home gardeners and at the Cornell Cooperative Extension facility in Voorheesville.

They covered an impressive variety of composting techniques including one, two and three bin recovery, hand-cranked tumblers, rolling cylinders and compost trenches, discussing the pros and cons of each particular option. Perhaps most intriguing were two relatively new methods, bokashi and vermiculture. Bokashi is a Japanese system of layering kitchen waste with a biotic enzyme powder which reduces the waste to usable compost in a relatively short time (10 days!). Vermiculture is a technique gaining in popularity which utilizes red wiggler worms to convert food scraps to compost enriched by the worms' own castings.

Regardless of the method chosen, composting is a responsible and effective way to recycle and nurture our gardens and the environment.

Let's hear it for the "verms!" - Dan Maier

Business Meeting 3/20

Linda Knipper chaired the meeting. The following expenditures were approved:

- \$100 to East Greenbush Library for Electronic equipment.
- \$100 gift to Median Iris Society
- \$180 for ad in May "Our Towne Bethlehem" for Siberian Iris and Perennial Sale.

Linda wants ideas for a fall bus trip.

Attendees were encouraged to go to the American Iris Society Convention in late May that will include garden tours in New Jersey and Pennsylvania as well as many lectures talks on all sizes of irises. For more information, log onto www.ais2016convention.com.

***Join the American Iris Society at
www.irises.org
and receive their excellent journal***

The Capital-Hudson Iris Society is sponsoring another fabulous

SIBERIAN IRIS & PERENNIAL SALE

Sunday, May 15th

From 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM



**In the parking lot (rain or shine) at
Main Square Shoppes
318 Delaware Avenue, Delmar**

**Siberian irises, daylilies, hostas, and a wide assortment of
sun and shade perennials from our members' gardens.
The prices and selection will be extraordinary. Don't miss it!**

For information call 518 439-3758

The Capital-Hudson Iris Society presents their annual

Iris Show



Saturday, June 4th

2:00 - 4:00 p.m.

Bethlehem Public Library

451 Delaware Avenue, Delmar, NY

This judged cut-flower show will have a generous display of named irises of all sizes and varieties grown by iris lovers from around the Capital Region. For additional information, call 952-4995.