

# Newsletter of the Capital Hudson Iris Society

Volume 24

Number 4

April 2017

## *\* 2017 Calendar \** *Mark your calendars now!*

**Sunday, April 23<sup>rd</sup>:** 1:30 p.m., CHIS Meeting, East Greenbush Library, "Companion Planting for the Kitchen Gardener" with Allison and Tim Greer.

### **NOTE CHANGE IN DATE FOR DIG:**

**Wednesday, May 3<sup>rd</sup>:** 9:00 – 12:00 Siberian Iris Dig and Potting Party at Euthemia's house, in preparation for May 21<sup>st</sup> Siberian Iris and Perennial Sale. If you have irises to contribute but can't make the dig, let Euthemia know. **(This event was originally planned for 4/19, please note change in date! Be sure to mark your calendars! See article on Page 2.)**

**Saturday, May 20<sup>th</sup>:** 9-1, Garden Education Day, Albany County Cooperative Extension, Martin Road, Voorheesville.

**Sunday, May 21<sup>st</sup>:** 9:00 – 12:00 Siberian Iris and Perennial Sale, Main Square Shoppes, Delmar, 9-12, rain or shine. See attached flyer and post it in your area!

**Sunday, May 28<sup>th</sup>:** Annual Bus Trip. See Linda's column on Page 2 for more information on decision-making for our trip!

**Saturday, June 3<sup>rd</sup>:** Iris Show at the Bethlehem Public Library, Delmar, 1-4 pm

**Wednesday, August 2<sup>nd</sup>:** 9:00 – 12:00 Rhizome Prep party at Euthemia's in preparation for Rhizome Sale at Faddegon's Saturday, August 5<sup>th</sup>.

**Saturday, August 5<sup>th</sup>:** 9:00 – 12:00 Annual Iris Rhizome Sale at Faddegon's Nursery, 1140 Troy-Schenectady Road, Latham, New York.

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

## Companion Planting: Vegetables, Flowers and Herbs Together in the Garden

Companion planting techniques have been used for centuries to facilitate better, more nutritious, and more abundant crops. Did you know that carrots will grow better if surrounded by lettuce, onions and beets, but beans should not be planted near onions? Your tomatoes will be happier if they're far away from potatoes, but peppers and marigolds make a terrific garden pair. Aromatic herbs help protect some vegetables from pests, and many flowers - including calendula, zinnias and yarrow - will attract beneficial insects to your garden beds. Accompanied by photos from their book, "Companion Planting for the Kitchen Gardener," author Allison Greer and photographer Tim Greer will discuss the basics of organic gardening, such as how to prepare quality soil and the importance of cover crops and organic fertilizer, explain the principles of companion planting, how plants interact, and how you can use that information to your garden's benefit. Whether you're a flower gardener who wants to incorporate some vegetables into the garden, or a vegetable gardener who wants some flowers to help keep away insects, you should find this a helpful presentation!

Allison and Tim Greer are avid organic gardeners and grow as much of their own food as possible. Allison is a social studies teacher and Tim is a professional photographer who also enjoys cooking. Allison is the author of "Companion Planting for the Kitchen Gardener," and Tim did all the photography. Full of gorgeous, full-color photographs and easy-to-follow diagrams and charts, it's a beautiful, useful guide for the home organic gardener and their family's needs. We hope they'll bring some copies for sale to the meeting!

Come to the Sunday, April 23<sup>rd</sup> meeting at 1:30 p.m. at the East Greenbush Community Library and learn about how to incorporate vegetables and flowers into your garden. Bring a friend to enjoy with you and a snack to share with the group. If you need driving directions, contact Euthemia at [euthemia@nycap.rr.com](mailto:euthemia@nycap.rr.com).

### **Important:**

**Change of date for Siberian Digging Party –  
See article on Page 2!**

Hello All,

I think the old adage is wrong – March comes in like a lamb and goes out like a lion! Let's hope spring will begin for sure in the next week. Now I see glimmerings of it as the snow melts and green begins peeking out from the earth. HURRY spring, we need you!

The late big snowstorm and cool weather have led us to change the date of our **Siberian Iris Digging Party at Euthemia's** from April 19<sup>th</sup> to the new date of **Wednesday, May 3<sup>rd</sup>**. This will give us all time to figure out what is really coming up that can be divided and will give Bob Keup, one of our founders who now lives in Maine, time to return from Florida and assess (and dig) what he's able to send us for the sale. As many of you know, Bob has continued to be interested in our group and is a heavy contributor to our Siberian sale in the spring and the August Rhizome Sale.

Thanks to all who helped man the tables at the Capital District Garden and Flower Show. We distributed many flyers about our activities and received new e-mail addresses for the newsletter. We hope some of you new people will come to our free meetings!

At the April 23<sup>rd</sup> meeting we will hear about companion planting with vegetables, a topic I've long wanted to bring to our meeting. We'll also decide where we will go on our spring bus trip (probably Sunday, May 28) so please be sure to come and help decide. If you have an idea for a good one-day trip, be sure to e-mail me. So far people have mentioned Dana Borglum's iris garden near Geneva (where we dig and bring home beautiful irises and peonies), the New York Botanical Garden in the Bronx, the Brooklyn Botanical Garden, Presby Iris Garden in New Jersey, Peony Envy in New Jersey. Let me know if you have more ideas. See you on April 23<sup>rd</sup>!

- Linda

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**Iris Dig now on May 3<sup>rd</sup>!**

The snow changed everything! Although it's officially spring, it's coming slowly and doesn't promise to be very warm in the next week or so. We decided to change the date of the iris digging party to Wednesday, May 3<sup>rd</sup> at 9:00 a.m. This will give time for our Siberian irises to come up and let us decide which ones are the best for dividing. Remember, **only named Siberians and other non-rhizomatous irises for this sale** – the iris rhizomes from bearded irises come to the August sale. Those who are familiar with the process know to dig your named Siberians and bring the clumps (well marked) to the Dig at Euthemia's house (13 Hartwood Road, Delmar, 439-3758).

You might want to go out in the next few weeks to check out your developing Siberians to decide what you need to dig. Bring your clumps 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 26th, 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 21st at Main Square Parking Lot in Delmar. Call 439-3758 for more information.

### **Bettina Mueller on 3/19**

There was a palpable air of serenity at our March meeting as Bettina Mueller spoke of her passionate quest to create a Japanese-style tea garden in her own yard. Long a devotee of the elaborate tea ceremony, Bettina decided not to let the limitations of place and space keep her from achieving her goal. She had a small functional teahouse built and then went to work crafting a tea garden around it. Rather than design an authentic Japanese structure for her yard, she decided her teahouse should fit into her small-town upstate New York neighborhood. The result, although fully functional as a teahouse, looks more like other small barns and sheds throughout the community. The garden, incorporates all the basic design elements you would expect to find in Japan, but relies more on native plant material to achieve its serene impact. The lesson to be learned is that we can all create a place of peace and beauty within the confines of our own gardens.

– Dan Maier

The Capital-Hudson Iris Society is sponsoring another fabulous

# **SIBERIAN IRIS & PERENNIAL SALE**

**Sunday, May 21<sup>st</sup>**

**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**