

# Newsletter of the Capital Hudson Iris Society

Volume 26

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## 2019 Calendar

**Sunday, April 14, 1:30 p.m.** Meeting at the East Greenbush Library, **Robert Clyde Anderson** will speak on **Garden Extroverts: Adding Drama to Your Designs with Big, Bold and Beautiful Plants**. Come and bring a friend, he's a terrific speaker and talented garden designer. Postponed from our January meeting due to weather.

**No May plant sale** is scheduled this year. Both Siberian Irises and Bearded Irises will be on sale at the August 3<sup>rd</sup> Iris Sale at Faddegon's Nursery.

**Saturday, June 1<sup>st</sup>**, Annual Iris Show. East Greenbush Community Library. Open to the public from 2-4 p.m., open for those showing their irises from 10:00 a.m. See article on Page 2.

**Wednesday, June 26<sup>th</sup>, 9 a.m. – 12 p.m.**, Siberian Iris Potting Party at Euthemia's, 13 Hartwood Road, Delmar. Come help divide and pot up Siberians for the Iris Sale at Faddegon's on August 3<sup>rd</sup>.

**Wednesday, July 31<sup>st</sup>, 9 a.m. – 12 p.m.**, Iris Rhizome Prep Party at Euthemia's, 13 Hartwood Road, Delmar. Come help prepare iris rhizomes (bearded irises) for the Iris Sale at Faddegon's on August 3<sup>rd</sup>.

**Saturday, August 3<sup>rd</sup>, 9 a.m. – 12 p.m.**, Annual Iris Sale at Faddegon's Nursery. This year it will be both potted Siberians and Bearded Iris Rhizomes that we have for sale. Not to be missed. Great prices, many varieties, pictures of everything so you know what you're buying.

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

## Add Drama to Your Garden! Sunday, April 14<sup>th</sup>

Is your garden too wimpy? Contrasting foliage size and texture is a great technique for adding vitality to your plantings, but how do you achieve bold effects here in our Zone 5 climate? On the Sunday, April 14<sup>th</sup>, meeting of the Capital Hudson Iris Society we will feature Robert Clyde Anderson with a talk entitled "**Garden Extroverts: Adding Drama to Your Designs with Big, Bold and Beautiful Plants**." This talk was originally scheduled for January but winter weather forced the cancellation and rescheduling of his talk.

Robert will introduce you to some underused annuals, seasonal tropicals and hardy perennials that can really make a splash in your garden with overscale, luxuriant and dramatic foliage effects. Also covered will be tips and techniques for how to create exuberant and impactful container plantings and groupings for versatile display on terraces, decks and poolside. Many of you will remember the great talk Robert gave to our group three years ago – we're really looking forward to his return!

Robert Clyde Anderson found his way to the Hudson Valley after a New York City career in illustration and book design. A native of Louisiana, he is a lifelong gardener, and has designed and maintained gardens in Columbia County as well as serving as right-hand man for eight years at the former Loomis Creek Nursery in Claverack, NY.

From 2012-2017 Robert served as Creative Director for Pondsides Nursery in Hudson, NY, where he helped launch the business and was the buyer for perennials, annuals, tropicals and hardgoods. He continues to serve as a client consultant and writes about plants and gardening on his personal blog, *Sempervivum*, at [robertclydeanderson.com](http://robertclydeanderson.com). It's a wonderful blog, packed full of information and exquisite photos (just like his talks!).

Robert makes his home in Stuyvesant, NY where he maintains a two-acre "laboratory" garden that includes shrub borders, a sunny terraced xeric garden, a shady wooded streamside area, a moist meadow area, a kitchen garden and a small flock of chickens.

The meeting begins with coffee and goodies at 1:30 and our speaker after the short business meeting at 2:00. 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. Or send Euthemia an email and she'll help you.

## Linda says...

Dear Gardeners -

It's true, spring is here. Now we're all busy raking and cleaning up the sticks and branches that have fallen from our trees and bushes during some of this windy weather! But do be sure to take time to come to the April 14<sup>th</sup> meeting to hear Robert Clyde Anderson. His talk (rescheduled from January) is entitled **Garden Extroverts: Adding Drama to Your Designs with Big, Bold and Beautiful Plants**. You won't want to miss his talk – he's really knowledgeable and has fabulous photos.

Saturday, June 1<sup>st</sup> is our annual Iris Show at the East Greenbush Library. The show opens to the public from 2:00 - 4:00 pm. For those of you cutting some of your prized irises for the show, please get there by 10:00 to clean and set up the irises. It's a fun show and whether you are bringing your irises for display or just coming to see what others are growing, you'll find there's something for everyone.

Since there is no spring plant sale, and Siberians will be sold at the August 3<sup>rd</sup> sale at Faddegon's, the Siberian Iris Potting Party will be held on Wednesday, June 26<sup>th</sup>, at Euthemia's home from 9-12. Those of you who don't work or who can get off work to come, please do so, we need as much help as we can get. If you have Siberians to divide, bring them (marked with their names) and we'll divide, clean and pot them up. More on this next month.

I hope to see you all for our last meeting before summer on April 14<sup>th</sup>!

- Linda

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## Iris Show Saturday, 6/1

The annual Iris Show will take place at the East Greenbush Library on Saturday, June 1. **We encourage you to bring some of your nicest specimens to display so that a full room of colorful irises will be available for public viewing.** The public show is open from 2-4 p.m. If you are bringing irises, please show up at 10:00 a.m. to prep your irises – they need to be cleaned of any pollen and little bugs, and displayed in their category. There will be more about the show in the next newsletter. If you have any questions in the meanwhile, contact Kathryn Mohr at [kemohrke@aol.com](mailto:kemohrke@aol.com).

## Karen Perkins talk on Epimediums 3/17

Karen Perkins is one of the world's experts on Epimediums and her talk on March 17<sup>th</sup> at the East Greenbush Library made that abundantly clear. Karen runs Garden Vision Epimediums in Phillipston, MA, northwest of Boston and about 2 ½ hours from Albany. Epimediums are easy to grow, long-lived shade perennials that thrive in well-drained, moisture retentive soils. Although many grow on limestone in China, they also have grown very well for her in the slightly acid soils of north central Massachusetts. They can be planted in partial sun (with adequate moisture) in northern latitudes; but need more shade further south. Too much sun will scorch the leaves, making them look unsightly, but will not kill the plant. They are tough, and once established, many tolerate dry shady garden sites where other plants fail, making them good choices for planting under shallow-rooted trees and in gardens that experience periodic drought. Karen showed us plants that primarily clump and others that spread nicely and therefore need room to become ground covers. We were all pleased that she brought plants to sell, five varieties of epimediums and other companion plants. **PLEASE NOTE:** Garden Vision is open to the public from Friday, May 3 until Sunday, May 19<sup>th</sup>, from 10 – 4 rain or shine. This is prime bloom time for epimediums. Check out the website for additional information.

## Save the dates: 6/26 & 7/31

There are two dates for "iris prep parties" at Euthemia's home in Delmar: Wednesday, 6/26 for the Siberian Prep Party and Wednesday, 7/31 for the Bearded Iris Rhizome Prep Party, both from 9-12. The Siberians are done earlier because they're in pots and need to re-establish themselves. Please put these dates on your calendars and come have fun with your fellow gardeners.