

Newsletter of the Capital Hudson Iris Society

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2019 Calendar

Sunday, February 17th, 11:30 a.m. Annual Doldrums Party held with the Upstate NY Hosta Society and the Hudson Adirondack Daylily Society. Albany County Cooperative Extension, 24 Martin Road, Voorheesville 12186. This is an annual potluck luncheon with a guest speaker. CHIS members (that's us!) are responsible for hosting this year. **Barbara Melera** will be the guest speaker with a talk on **The Victorians: How they Forever Changed the Garden.** The Doldrums party is a really fun and educational event at a time when we're all chomping at the bit to get back into our gardens!

Sunday, March 17, 1:30 p.m. Meeting at the East Greenbush Library. Karen Perkins, world-renowned epimedium expert, will give a talk entitled:

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.

Got any ideas for a spring bus trip?

Combining it with a good nearby nursery always helps make it more fun. Let Linda know your ideas for a nice day trip at

Linda.Montanaro@gmail.com.

Join the American Iris Society
www.irises.org

Doldrums Party on Feb. 17th

We've definitely had enough "weather" for the winter, but unfortunately we're just in the middle of what is our real winter in the Northeast. It's why The Doldrums Party was created, to be held in mid-February each year. The Capital Hudson Iris Society, Upstate New York Hosta Society and the Hudson-Adirondack Daylily Society have joined forces for probably 20+ years now, and take turns hosting the Doldrums at the Albany County Cooperative Extension. It's a large enough venue to hold all three groups. Everyone brings a dish to share for a delicious potluck luncheon, if you can bring a nice contribution for the door-prize table, and a friend who would enjoy the talk, food and camaraderie. Capital Hudson Iris Society (that's us!) is the host this year and we'll supply the beverages, paper goods and the speaker.

This year the speaker will be Barbara Melera, A long-time gardening expert, for 13 years Ms. Melera was president and CEO of The D. Landreth Seed Company, the oldest seed house in America, established in 1784. She now serves as an advisor to Harvesting History, a new horticultural company founded in 2016 to provide its customers with the finest quality horticultural and agricultural products available today. Its horticultural and agricultural products are largely heirloom varieties that can be reliably offered year after year or designs that have proven invaluable to gardeners for many, many generations.

Her talk is entitled "The Victorians: How They Forever Changed the Garden." When it comes to widespread impact on gardening practices, the discovery and worldwide proliferation of plant species, the way humans at every socio-economic level thought about gardens, it can be argued that of all the cultures, civilizations, and historic periods, none rivals the 90 year span known as The Victorian Era. Her talk provides an overview of the era and some interesting vignettes on this exciting period in the history of horticulture and agriculture.

The Doldrums begins at 11:30 a.m., Sunday, February 17th, at the Albany County Cooperative Extension, 24 Martin Road, Voorheesville, NY 12186. For directions, log onto their website or call Euthemia at 518 439-3758.



Barb Melera

Linda says...

Dear Gardeners -

We're really sorry the weather gods prevented us from holding our January meeting with Robert Clyde Anderson as speaker. But we rescheduled him for April 14th and we hope you'll make that talk, entitled Garden Extroverts: Adding Drama to Your Designs with Big, Bold and Beautiful Plan. Yes, just what I need!

For the Sunday, February 17th, Doldrums Party at the Albany County Cooperative Extension in Voorheesville, we're the hosts! Barbara Melera is the speaker on Victorian Gardens – she's knowledgeable, interesting and I'm sure the pictures will be phenomenal. Be sure to put the Doldrums Party in your calendar – remember it's a potluck luncheon and you need to get there at 11:30 a.m. For those of you who are able to come and help set up, we'll be there at 10:00. There's more detailed information on the Doldrums Party on Page 1 of this newsletter.

Our March meeting features Karen Perkins, world-famous expert on epimediums. Did you know there are hundreds and hundreds of epimediums? I sure didn't. Karen will be a good person to learn about at least some of them!

I hope to see you on Sunday, February 17th, at the Doldrums Party.

- Linda

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Rethinking our Sales:

Discussion we meant to have at the
January business meeting...

Snow has put a damper on lots of things this winter, one of them being a discussion we meant to have at our January meeting on whether or not we should have both a spring sale and a fall sale. So we need you to think about the arguments for each, and whether it makes sense to hold off on a spring sale and just have the one sale at Faddegon's in August. And then let us know your thoughts soon, we need to decide by March.

Members have been contributing fewer and fewer plants each year to the Siberian Iris and Perennial Sale held each Sunday after Mother's Day in Delmar. Special plants we purchase at a wholesale nursery have supplemented what we sell each year, but the mark-up on them is so small that it really doesn't pay to do it.

If we combine our Siberian and Rhizomes Sales into one event at the annual sale at Faddegon's Nursery in August, it would give Bob and Ann Keup some leeway on digging the Siberians that they send us each year from Maine right after they return from their Florida winter vacation. They would be free to dig the Siberians later, say in May or June, and we could then pot up and babysit plants until August. Or if they sent them even later, say in late July, then we could sell them bare-root (well wrapped in damp paper towels and plastic wrap.) Most mail-order nurseries that specialize in Siberians sell them that way and they're viable and easily transplanted to a pot or directly into the ground.

Combining the sales would enable us to concentrate on the one sale but it would probably mean at least \$1,000 less in income each year, money we use to bring speakers to our meetings.

We might choose to try this for one year and see if we're able to bring in the customers we need at the one sale. But we need your input!

It's an important discussion and there may be other arguments pro and con. Therefore, I need you to send your suggestions to me by email so that the executive committee can make a decision based on more than just our own feelings. Euthemia@nycap.rr.com is my email. Thank you for your thoughts! We hope to have a decision made by the March meeting.

- Euthemia