

Newsletter of the Capital Hudson Iris Society

Volume 24

Number 1

January 2017

** 2017 Calendar * Mark your calendars now!*

Sunday, January 22nd, 1:30 p.m. CHIS Meeting, East Greenbush Library, Speaker Melanie Mason of North Country Daylilies, nationally-known local Daylily Hybridizer will speak on "Change!"

Sunday, February 19th, Annual Doldrums Party at the Albany County Cooperative Extension, hosted by Upstate NY Hosta Society. Daylily, Iris and Hosta Societies sponsor this meeting each year. Speaker: Kathy Purdy, nationally known garden writer who will give a talk entitled "Combat Cabin Fever with your Garden." Arrive at 11:00 and bring a luncheon dish or dessert to share.

Sunday, March 19th, CHIS Meeting, East Greenbush Library, Speaker TBA

March 24-26: Capital District Flower and Garden Show at Hudson Valley Community College.

Wednesday, April 19th: Siberian Iris Dig and Potting Party at Euthemia's house, in preparation for May 21st Siberian Iris and Perennial Sale.

Sunday, May 21st: Siberian Iris and Perennial Sale, Main Square Shoppes, Delmar, 9-12, rain or shine.

Sunday, May 28th: Annual Bus Trip TBA

Saturday, June 3rd: Iris Show at the Bethlehem Public Library, Delmar, 1-4 pm

Wednesday, August 2nd: Rhizome Prep party at Euthemia's in preparation for Rhizome Sale at Faddegon's Saturday, August 5th.

Saturday, August 5th: Annual Iris Rhizome Sale at Faddegon's Nursery, 9-12.

Melanie Mason brings in the New Year with "Change!"

Melanie Mason of North Country Daylilies will be our guest speaker at the Sunday, January 22nd, 2017, meeting of the Capital Hudson Iris Society at the East Greenbush Library at 1:30 p.m. Her talk is entitled "Change!" – she will follow the changes in daylilies from the 1950's through today. As her talk details, daylily fashion has varied as much as hemlines!

Melanie Mason came to daylilies in a roundabout way. Her first career was as an elementary art teacher, but after determining that she preferred children in small quantities, she went back to school for a degree in ornamental horticulture. She worked in the landscaping business for over a decade, and through a chance meeting with Pat and Grace Stamile, discovered the wonders and variety of daylilies. With Pat and Grace's encouragement, she began hybridizing. That was nearly 25 years ago, and in the period since, she has registered over 120 daylilies, won 11 Honorable Mentions and one Award of Merit from the American Hemerocallis Society (AHS). *(See 2 intros below)*

Melanie served AHS Region 4 as Regional Vice President for four years, on the AHS Board of Directors for six, and is on the AHS Registration committee. She continues to hybridize at the farm that she and husband Bob have in Buskirk, NY, in nearby Washington County. There they raise Black Angus cattle as well as daylilies. With 450 acres, over 120 cows, three Labrador retrievers, and nearly 1000 daylilies, they stay pretty busy! Melanie sells daylilies through her web-site www.northcountrydaylilies.com and also in the summer on weekends during bloom season, when they welcome visitors.

We're very pleased to have such a well-known and knowledgeable speaker to educate us on plants that many of us grow and want to learn more about. The meeting begins at 1:30 with coffee and cake, there will be a short business meeting at 2:00 and Melanie will begin right after that. Bring a friend and a dessert or appetizer to share. If you need driving directions, go online to the East Greenbush Community Library or contact Euthemia.

"Fire in the Kitchen" 2015



"Hall of Justice" 2015



hope you've all survived the holidays and are ready to plan your gardens for the coming spring!

We had a wonderful November meeting-holiday party with our favorite speakers, Jan Sacks and Marty Shafer from Joe Pye Weed's Garden in Carlisle, Massachusetts. Their presentation was educational and enjoyable, as usual. So many of you came to see the beautiful iris photos and learn from Marty and Jan, and everyone brought delicious food, wonderful gifts for the exchange table, and of course there were our gift certificate door prizes. It was a very successful event. We plan to keep having our holiday party as part of the November meeting since so many people get overloaded with events in December.

At our next meeting on January 22, we are thrilled to have Melanie Mason of North Country Daylilies as our speaker. Those of you in HADS know her well, those who don't will be in for a real treat.

And don't forget the Doldrums Party on Sunday, February 19th, at the Albany County Cooperative Extension, an annual event including the Iris Society, Daylily Society and the Hosta Society. This year Hosta will be hosting the event with Kathy Purdy giving a talk on how to "Combat Cabin Fever with your Garden." Sounds like a talk designed for our February Doldrums!

On behalf of my family, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of you from the Iris Society for your expressions of condolences on the death of my mother in early December. It was difficult for all of us, but it was her time. She is at peace.

I hope to see you at the January 22nd meeting. - Linda

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

Marty Shafer and Jan Sacks at the November Holiday Party

Good friends, good food and a special visit with irisarians Marty Schafer and Jan Sacks were the highlights of this year's holiday get-together in mid-November.

Marty and Jan put together another phenomenal program on the history of their iris hybridization efforts. It was fascinating to watch them trace the lineage of many of their outstanding cultivars and follow the emergence of particular distinctions in form, color and patterning.

As CHIS members we are fortunate indeed to be near enough to bear witness to the incredible life's work of this pioneering and hard-working couple, and lucky to be able to grow the gorgeous fruits of their labors in our own gardens. I can't wait for the 2017 Joe Pye Weed's Garden catalog to arrive and look forward to my next visit with Marty and Jan!

- Dan Maier

February Doldrums Party Plans

The annual Doldrums Party will be held on Sunday, February 19, at 11:00 a.m. at the Albany County Cooperative Extension, Martin Road in Voorheesville. This year the event will be coordinated by the Upstate New York Hosta Society. All three local garden societies, the Hosta Society, Hudson Adirondack Daylily Society and the Capital Hudson Iris Society take part in this potluck luncheon with speaker each year. Kathy Purdy, a garden writer and blogger, will give the keynote address "Combat Cabin Fever with your Garden". Many of you may know Kathy through her website, Coldclimategardening.com. Be sure to add this to your calendar, bring a luncheon dish or dessert to share, and be prepared for some mid-winter fun. More details in the February newsletter.

*** Join the American Iris Society ***
www.irises.org