

Newsletter of the Capital Hudson Iris Society

Volume 26

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January 2019

2019 Calendar

Sunday, January 20th, 2019, 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.

Sunday, February 17th, 11:30 a.m. Annual Doldrums Party held with the Upstate NY Hosta Society and the Hudson Adirondack Daylily Society. 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:** . 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, Speaker to be announced.

Sunday, April 14, 1:30 p.m. Meeting at the East Greenbush Library, Speaker to be announced.

Join the American Iris Society
www.irises.org

Add Drama to your Garden! Sunday, January 20th

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 Sunday, January 20th, the first 2019 meeting of the Capital Hudson Iris Society will feature Robert Clyde Anderson with a talk entitled **"Garden Extroverts: Adding Drama to Your Designs with Big, Bold and Beautiful Plants."**

This talk 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, Robert 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 Pondside 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. 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 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, 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 -

I hope you've all recovered from the holidays are getting reoriented to what day it is. There is something about a Tuesday holiday that makes Wednesday feel like Monday and everything gets confusing! It's nice having an extra weekend in there to get ready but it is taking some time to recover!

Our speaker this month (Sunday, January 20) is not to be missed! Robert Clyde Anderson has retired from Pondsides Nursery in Hudson and now does garden design consulting and has an extra-special blog. He's a great writer, has beautiful photos and gives wonderful presentations. He'll talk on adding drama to your garden with "Garden Extroverts" – something most of us need help with. Be sure to come and bring a friend or friends, the more the merrier.

For the Sunday, February 17th, Doldrums Party at the Albany County Cooperative Extension in Voorheesville, we're the hosts! More about our guest speaker and what we need to do as hosts in our next newsletter. 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.

I hope to see you on Sunday, January 20 at 1:30 sharp! We've got a few issues to talk about related to schedules and sales for this year.

- Linda

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Doldrums on Feb. 17th

No, it's not a sickness that will hit you on February 17th. Maybe it's more like a weariness and malaise that sets in around now and continues through March or later. But we like to think that part of the solution is to have a great garden talk, a luncheon and just party! 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 in mid-February. Everyone brings a dish to share for the luncheon, maybe a nice contribution for the door-prize table, and a friend who would enjoy the talk, food and camaraderie. CHIS is the host this year and we'll supply the beverages, paper goods and the speaker.

This year the speaker will be Barbara Melera, whose talk is entitled "The Victorians: How they Forever Changed the Garden." A long-time gardening expert, for 13 years, Ms. Melera was president and CEO of The D. Landreth Seed Company, the oldest seedhouse in America, established in 1784. She has a lot to offer and it should be an interesting and beautiful presentation.

There will be lots more on the Doldrums Party in the February newsletter. Meanwhile, if you're able to help with the set-up for the party at 10:00 a.m. on Sunday, February 17th, please let Euthemia know. We'll need all the help we can get! Thanks.

Rethinking our Sales: Discussion for the January business meeting

This is a heads up on one of the items we need to discuss at the January 20th meeting – whether or not we have two sales or one each year. 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. We're thinking about combining our Siberian and Rhizomes Sales into one 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. We're also unsure about how much longer they'll be able to do this since they're not getting any younger (nor are we, darn it.) We'd have to decide whether we'd sell Siberians bare root or potted, as well. 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. So it's an important discussion and we hope you'll be there early to help us come to a decision. - Euthemia