

# Newsletter of the Capital Hudson Iris Society

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July-August 2021

## *2021 Iris Calendar*

**Wednesday, August 4, 9:00 a.m., Iris Digging Party** at Euthemia's home, 13 Hartwood Road, Delmar. See article on right for details.

**Saturday, August 7, 9:00 a.m. – 12 noon. Iris Sale at Faddegon's Nursery**, 1140 Troy-Schenectady Road (Route 7), Latham, NY. Proceeds to bring speakers to CHIS meetings.

We'll let you know as soon as library meetings are opened up and we feel comfortable holding meetings again.

## *Other events of interest*

**Saturday, August 14, 9:00 a.m. – 12 noon.** Upstate NY Hosta Society **Hosta Sale at Faddegon's Nursery**. Fundraiser for Hosta Society meetings and activities.

**Saturday, August 21, 9:00 a.m. – 12 noon.** Hudson-Adirondack Daylily Society **Daylily Sale at Faddegon's Nursery**. Fundraiser for Daylily Society meetings and activities.

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

## **Iris Sale, Sat. August 7th Iris Prep, Wed. August 4th**

The Iris Sale at Faddegon's Nursery in Latham will be held on **Saturday, August 7, 9 a.m. -12 noon at Faddegon's Nursery**, 1140 Troy-Schenectady Road (Route 7), Latham – about 2.5 miles west of Exit 6 of the Northway. All CHIS workers will be masked and vaccinated. We hope you will be, too!

This is the first sale since August 2019 and there will be some wonderful irises that have been developing for an extra year without division. Bob Keup is sending many bearded and beardless irises from Maine (see picture below) and Kathryn Mohr is digging from her beautiful garden in Ballston Lake. If you have named irises that are big enough to divide, please contact Euthemia immediately so that you can share some of them with us for the sale.

The sale will include iris rhizomes (tall bearded, medians, standard dwarf, etc.) and a selection of bare root Siberian irises. Bare root means just what it sounds like – the irises come wrapped in damp paper towels and plastic to preserve the roots and keep them ready for planting. When you get home, you either plant them directly in the ground where you want them to be or pot them up for later planting when it isn't so hot. Siberians do well when we buy them bare root from iris hybridizers and should do well when you get them from us!

To prepare for the iris sale, there will be an "Iris Digging Party" at Euthemia's house in Delmar a few days before the sale, on **Wednesday, August 4<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 a.m.** It usually takes us 2-3 hours to finish marking and bagging all the irises. If you're free, do come. We'll teach you how to do it – it's easy and you learn a lot about irises. If you can, bring a folding chair, a pair of scissors, black Sharpies if you have any, and a stapler. Bagels and coffee will be served. The address is 13 Hartwood Road, off Dumbarton Drive, in Delmar. Call if you need directions – 518 439-3758.



Bob Keup decorates his local YMCA  
with beautiful irises

## Linda says...

Dear Gardeners -

We sure have had our share (and others' as well) of rain this summer with more to come, apparently. It certainly helped our gardens produce some lovely blooms. Take a look at the tall bearded irises Bob Keup cut from his garden to decorate his local YMCA in Maine in the photo on Page 1. You too can grow irises like Bob if you come to the iris Sale at Faddegon's Nursery on Saturday, August 7<sup>th</sup> to buy some of the beautiful rhizomes and beardless iris we'll have for sale. See the article on page 1 for directions to Faddegons.

As in past years (excluding 2020), Faddegon's Nursery has graciously offered us one of their hoop houses for our annual sale. Euthemia already has the lists from Bob and from Kathryn Mohr and has been busily typing labels with descriptions of each iris, and a picture so you will know what each iris looks like before you buy. It's a wonderful sale, not to be missed. This year we have an even better selection because we've got an extra year's growth to dig.

To prepare for the sale, there will be an Iris Prep Party on Wednesday morning, August 4<sup>th</sup>, at 9:00 at Euthemia's home in Delmar. Be sure to come if you can – it's a great way to meet other gardening enthusiasts and to learn about some of the many irises we'll have for sale that Saturday.

I hope to see you at the Prep Party and, of course, at the Iris Sale at Faddegon's Nursery on Saturday, August 7<sup>th</sup>. Come bright and early to insure you get the irises you want!

- Linda

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## Fun with Hybridizing

Kathryn Mohr has been having some fun with irises! She has been planting "Holiday in Mexico" pods the bees crossed for her and these are two of the "babies" emerged from her seeds. It's amazing to think that such different looking irises can come from the same pod parents but that's what happened! Here are pictures of her seedlings for your enjoyment.



## Other Gardening Activities Happening

Here are some of the many gardening activities that may appeal to you. Some are still virtual but should be fun, and others are live and in person.

**The Bethlehem Garden Club's 2021 Virtual Garden Tour.** Starting June 16, you have been able to access views of 6 beautiful Bethlehem gardens via links on their (url corrected since last newsletter) website: [www.bethlehemgardenclubny.org](http://www.bethlehemgardenclubny.org). Voluntary donations enable the continuation of town-wide beautification projects.

**Upstate New York Hosta Society** will have their annual sale at Faddegon's Nursery on Saturday, August 14<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 a.m.

**The Hudson Adirondack Daylily Society** will have their annual sale at Faddegon's Nursery on Saturday, August 21<sup>st</sup> at 9:00 a.m.

**The American Iris Society** has been holding monthly (or more frequent) Webinars, with outstanding iris hybridizers talking about their specialty including Japanese Iris, Siberians, Novelty Irises. They've posted these on YouTube. AIS members are also able to access programs before they go onto the YouTube format. AIS sends out announcements about each webinar to members in advance. If you haven't already joined AIS, you might want to do so at this time. Go onto [www.irises.org](http://www.irises.org) to find out more about the American Iris Society.