

Newsletter of the Capital Hudson Iris Society

Volume 28

Number 1

June 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 can schedule an Iris speaker.

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.

See article on Page 2 for other gardening activities.

Join the American Iris Society
www.irises.org

CHIS is Back! Iris Sale August 7th

It's so strange to be writing this newsletter again – it feels like we've been in a state of suspended animation and are just beginning to move around. And I guess to a certain extent, it's true.

Although all activities are not back, the first one we feel comfortable doing is the annual Iris Sale at Faddegon's Nursery in Latham on the first Saturday of August. Put it on your calendars: Saturday, August 7, 9 a.m. -12 noon at Faddegon's Nursery, 1140 Troy-Schenectady Road (Route 7), Latham. It's about 2.5 miles west of Exit 6 of the Northway. All CHIS workers will be masked and vaccinated!

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!

Bob Keup is again planning to send us many beautiful irises (rhizomes and Siberians) from his garden in Maine. We also need you to look at the irises you have in bloom now and if you know their names and they are big enough to divide, share some of them with us for the sale. Mark them now for digging.

The iris sale is the only way CHIS makes money to pay speakers for our future meetings. Although we don't have any meetings planned yet because the East Greenbush Library is not open for scheduled meetings, we know we'll be able to start planning speakers sometime in the next few months. We've got a list of speakers we had planned for 2020 and we hope they will be available when we "get rolling" again.

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 4th 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. The address is 13 Hartwood Road, off Dumbarton Drive, in Delmar. Call if you need directions – 518 439-3758.

There will be additional information about the Digging Party in next month's newsletter. I'd appreciate an email note letting me know that you'll be coming to the Digging Party so I have enough bagels and coffee for all! Glad to be back!

Linda says...

Dear Gardeners -

It's been over a year since we've had a regular newsletter, regular meetings or our sale. Because of the pandemic, the American Iris Society had to cancel their celebration of their 100th birthday in 2020, and again in 2021. It will finally be held in Las Cruces, New Mexico in 2022! Howie Dash, a former CHIS member when he lived out here, relocated to the southwest maybe 10 years ago (or more?), and will be in charge of the 2022 National Convention in New Mexico. Here's a great opportunity to travel to the southwest and to see what beautiful (and different) irises they can grow there.

Meanwhile, we're all marveling at how beautiful the gardens are this year, maybe as a reward for all of the stress we've had to endure for the last year +? Now I'm happy every day, waking up to see new blooms.

We're so pleased to be able to have an iris sale at Faddegon's on Saturday, August 7, and hope you'll be able to come. Faddegon's has again graciously offered the use of one of their hoop houses. We're planning to bring as many varieties as possible to tempt you.

The Iris Digging Party (really a prep party, because the digging is all done before) will be held on Wednesday morning, August 4th, at 9:00 at Euthemia's home in Delmar. Be sure to come if you can – it's a great way to meet other iris enthusiasts and to learn about some of the many irises we'll have for sale that Saturday.

I guess I can say "Welcome back, everyone!"

- Linda

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Other Gardening Activities Happening

Now that our gardens are in full bloom and we are beginning to venture out in the world, there are many gardening activities happening that may appeal to you. Some are still virtual but should be fun, and others are live and in person. Here are some.

The Bethlehem Garden Club's 2021 Virtual Garden Tour. Starting June 16, you will be able to access views of 6 beautiful Bethlehem gardens via links on their website: www.bethlehemgardenclub.org. Voluntary donations enable the continuation of town-wide beautification projects.

Upstate New York Hosta Society will have a Spectacular Garden Open House at the home of Karen and Jenaro Ramos, 18 Degraff Road, West Charlton, on Saturday, June 19. Two time slots: 8 – 10 a.m. OR 6 – 7 p.m. The tour will be held rain or shine with your choice of time.

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. Copy and paste the url and you should be able to access them.

AIS Webinar #14: (05-05-2021) "Two Worlds – One Iris. A look at the Past, Present and Future of the Siberian Iris" <https://youtu.be/2-cMz7XUKQE>

AIS Webinar #3 (08-05-2020) Bonnie Nichols on "Novelty Irises: Broken Color and Flatties." <https://youtu.be/EFIWOLYNhT4>

AIS Webinar #4 (08-12-2020) Bonnie Nichols on "Novelty Irises: Space Agers." https://youtu.be/OgFR_6fIVU4

AIS members are also able to access programs in June before they go onto the YouTube format. AIS sends out announcements about each webinar to members in advance. Perhaps if you haven't already joined AIS, you might want to do so at this time. Go onto www.irises.org to find out more about the American Iris Society.