

# Newsletter of the Capital Hudson Iris Society

Volume 26

Number 3

March 2019

## 2019 Calendar

**Sunday, March 17, 1:30 p.m.** Meeting at the East Greenbush Library. World-renowned epimedium expert **Karen Perkins** will give a talk entitled **"Epimediums – Jewels of the Shade."**

**Saturday, March 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2:30 p.m.** at the Capital District Garden and Flower Show at Hudson Valley Community College, Kathryn Mohr, Region 2 Vice President of the American Iris Society and co-Founder of Capital Hudson Iris Society will give a talk on **"Growing Water-Loving Irises"**.

**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.

**No May plant sale** is scheduled this year. Siberian Irises and Bearded Irises will be on sale at the August 3<sup>rd</sup> Rhizome Sale at Faddegon's Nursery.

**Summer Schedule in the April newsletter!**

### 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 for either May or June at [Linda.Montanaro@gmail.com](mailto:Linda.Montanaro@gmail.com).

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

## Epimediums with Karen Perkins Sunday, March 17 at 1:30 pm

When it comes to epimediums, you'd have to look far to find a better expert than Karen Perkins. And she will be our speaker at the Sunday, March 17<sup>th</sup> meeting at 1:30 at the East Greenbush Community Library.

Known by many as a simple ground cover for dry woodland shade, epimediums are finally getting the appreciation that they deserve. This "perfect shade perennial" possesses a delicate beauty that belies its surprisingly tough, long-lasting nature. Karen will illustrate the many and varied types now commercially available, including some of the exciting new evergreen species from China. Characteristics, growth habit, growing and propagation, pests and diseases, and combining epimediums with other shade perennials in the garden will also be addressed. We will even get a glimpse into the collecting trips to China made by Darrell Probst. She will also talk about the dwarf irises that Darrell has collected that are sold by Joe Pye Weed's Garden (Marty and Jan).

Karen Perkins is owner of Garden Vision Epimediums, a Massachusetts-based mail order nursery started by Darrell Probst and offering over 170 species and varieties of epimediums along with other choice companion shade perennials. She graduated from Cornell University with a B.S. in Floriculture and Ornamental Horticulture and from the University of Delaware with an M.S. in Public Garden Management. She has worked/interned at several botanic gardens including: the Cornell Plantations, Longwood Gardens, The Arboretum at Flagstaff, and in Great Britain at the Royal Botanic Gardens – Kew, and Royal Botanic Gardens – Edinburgh. Karen served in the Education Department of the Tower Hill Botanic Garden in Boylston, MA for 17 years.

The meeting opens at 1:30 with coffee and cake, then a short business meeting at 2:00 and the speaker right after that. Call 518 439-3758 if you need driving instructions or go onto the library website. And bring a friend!



## Linda says...

Dear Gardeners -

Thanks to all who contributed to the Door Prize table at the Doldrums Party on February 17<sup>th</sup>. Although I was unable to attend because of a death in the family, I understand that her talk was very informative and generated lots of discussion.

Our March meeting features Karen Perkins, world-famous expert on epimediums with a talk entitled "Epimediums – Jewels of the Shade." 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! And we understand she may bring some plants to sell – you'll have to keep them going until planting time, but they are more than worth it!

We just learned that our own Kathryn Mohr will be giving a talk on "Growing Water-Loving Irises" at the Capital District Garden and Flower Show on Saturday, March 23<sup>rd</sup>.

Robert Clyde Anderson has been rescheduled for our April 14<sup>th</sup> meeting when the weather will try to obey us and become spring-like. His talk is entitled **Garden Extroverts: Adding Drama to Your Designs with Big, Bold and Beautiful Plants.**

I hope to see you on Sunday, March 17<sup>th</sup> at Karen Perkins talk at the East Greenbush Library at 1:30 p.m. and at Kathryn's talk at the Garden and Flower Show on March 23<sup>rd</sup>!

- Linda

## CHIS Contacts

**CHIS Chair:** Linda Knipper, [Linda.Montanaro@gmail.com](mailto:Linda.Montanaro@gmail.com)  
518 377-4987

**Vice Chairs:** Dan and Joanne Maier, [Danjomaier@gmail.com](mailto:Danjomaier@gmail.com)  
518 449-8480

**Secretary:** Virginia Dorwaldt, [vmdorwaldt@gmail.com](mailto:vmdorwaldt@gmail.com)  
518 439-3110

**Treasurer:** Don Salhoff, [driris2000@hotmail.com](mailto:driris2000@hotmail.com)  
518 439-1484

**Newsletter editor:** Euthemia Matsoukas,  
[EuthemiaMatsoukas@gmail.com](mailto:EuthemiaMatsoukas@gmail.com)  
Or [euthemia@nycap.rr.com](mailto:euthemia@nycap.rr.com)  
518 439-3758

**Iris Show Chair:** Kathryn Mohr, [kemohrke@aol.com](mailto:kemohrke@aol.com)  
518 952-4995

## Kathryn Mohr on "Water Loving Irises" at Hudson Valley 3/23

Region 2 Vice President of the American Iris Society and co-founder of the Capital Hudson Iris Society Kathryn Mohr will be giving a talk at the Capital District Garden and Flower Show at Hudson Valley Community College on Saturday, March 23 at 2:30 p.m. Her talk will be "Growing Water-Loving Irises". Kathryn is our Go-To Person for all questions on irises – she's been growing them for more than 45 years. You might want to plan your visit to the show around her talk!

## Barbara Melera at the Doldrums Party 2/17

Barbara Melera was the featured speaker at the Doldrums Party on Sunday, February 17<sup>th</sup> at the Albany County Cooperative Extension. She gave a talk entitled "The Victorians – How They Forever Changed the Garden." She brought the talk back to America and explained how the garden was regarded as a symbol of social status for those with new prosperity. She talked about the various types of Victorian gardens including vegetable and flower gardens as well as specialty gardens such as herb, rose and bog gardens. She let us know about some of the flowers that gained popularity during that time as well as herbs and vegetables that rose to prominence. We learned about gardening during and after the Civil War, influential landscape architects such as Frederick Law Olmstead, William Robinson and Gertrude Jekyll, the invention of the Haws Watering Pot, and what caused the Irish Potato Famine. She identified five of the era's greatest horticultural contributions: The Orange Carrot, Detroit Dark Red Beet, The Sweet Pea, and Luther Burbank's Shasta Daisy and Russet Potato. Lovely slides accompanied her very interesting talk.

The Doldrums Party was also about food and fun door prizes, with great food contributions and an abundance of door prizes. We had 77 registered attendees, a new record we think! Thanks to all who attended, who helped set up beforehand, and who contributed food and door prizes. We hope that the new people who came as your guests will also continue to attend meetings of the Capital Hudson Iris Society, the Hudson Adirondack Daylily Society and the Upstate New York Hosta Society. All three groups are welcoming to new members and have interesting speakers at their meetings.

- Euthemia Matsoukas