

Newsletter of the Capital Hudson Iris Society

Volume 26

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May - June 2019

2019 Calendar

No May plant sale is scheduled this year. Both Siberian Irises and Bearded Irises will be on sale at the August 3rd Iris Sale at Faddegon's Nursery.

Saturday, June 1st, Annual Iris Show. East Greenbush Community Library. Open to the public from 2-4 p.m., open for those showing their irises from 10:00 a.m. See article on Page 2.

Thursday, June 13th, 4-8 p.m. Rensselaer County Garden Tour 2019, drive yourself tour \$10 each person. For information Google **Rensselaer County Garden Tour 2019** or Email dhc3@cornell.edu.

Wednesday, June 26th, 9 a.m. – 12 p.m., Siberian Iris Potting Party at Euthemia's, 13 Hartwood Road, Delmar. Come help divide and pot up Siberians for the Iris Sale at Faddegon's on August 3rd.

Wednesday, July 31st, 9 a.m. – 12 p.m., Iris Rhizome Prep Party at Euthemia's, 13 Hartwood Road, Delmar. Come help prepare iris rhizomes (bearded irises) for the Iris Sale at Faddegon's on August 3rd.

Saturday, August 3rd, 9 a.m. – 12 p.m., Annual Iris Sale at Faddegon's Nursery. This year it will be both potted Siberians and Bearded Iris Rhizomes that we have for sale. Not to be missed. Great prices, many varieties, pictures of everything so you know what you're buying.

Join the American Iris Society
www.irises.org

Iris Show, Saturday, June 1st

Spring has definitely sprung and we know that by Saturday, June 1st there will be a lot of irises in bloom in time for the Annual CHIS Iris Show. This year the Iris Show will again be held at the East Greenbush Community Library.

This year we want to encourage you to bring irises whether or not you want to enter them in the judging. Just cut your best-looking specimens and label them with the name if you know it. Come between 10:00 – 11:00 a.m. so that the irises can be cleaned and put on display.

Those who are bringing named irises for judging should be at the library when it opens at 10:00 am to clean and set them up for display. We will have assistants there to teach you how to groom your irises for the best look, and place them for the judging. It would be helpful to bring a finger nail scissors and/or Exacto blade knife, cotton balls, Q-tips, paper towels, and some return address labels with your name and address on them, and a pen. (Labels make it easier to fill out the card for each of your irises.) This year the judges include Dave Nitka, Rebecca Wong and our own CHIS member, Suzanne Perry.

For those of you who simply want to view some beautiful irises (and think about what you want to put in your garden in the future), the show is open to the public at 2:00 p.m. Contact Kathryn Mohr if you have any questions at kemohrke@aol.com.

Save Wednesdays: 6/26 & 7/31

There are two dates for "iris prep parties" at Euthemia's home: Wednesday, 6/26 for the **Siberian Prep Party** and Wednesday, 7/31 for the **Bearded Iris Rhizome Prep Party**, both from 9-12, at 13 Hartwood Road, Delmar. The Siberians are done earlier because they're in pots and need to re-establish themselves before the sale. This is the first year we haven't had a spring sale in Delmar, we're selling both Siberians and Bearded irises at the August 3rd sale.

Bring any named Siberian or other beardless irises at 9:00 a.m. on June 26, well marked so we know when we divide them what they are. We'll clean them, divide them and pot them in Pro-Mix and let them get established for the August 3rd Iris Sale at Faddegon's Nursery. **Be sure to send Euthemia an email by June 15th with the irises you are bringing to the June 26th dig.** That way she'll be able to make labels for the pots in advance of the dig. But even if you haven't any irises to contribute, come and help pot irises Bob Keup sends from Maine. There will be plenty to do. **Please put these dates on your calendars and come have fun with your fellow gardeners.**

The July issue will have additional information on the 7/31 digging party when you'll bring your bearded iris rhizomes for the August 3rd sale.

Linda says...

Dear Gardeners -

Along with spring weather we've had inordinate amounts of rain – I guess it comes with the territory. Enough already, I'm anxious to get some new plants in the ground, not easy when it's all so wet!

My irises are coming in nicely as I hope yours are. Several should be in prime shape for Saturday, June 1st and the Iris Show at East Greenbush Community Library. I hope you will cut some of your best specimens and bring them to the library at 10:00 to prep and display them for the judging and later the 2:00 show. Last year we had too few specimens – this year we need new members to participate and learn about showing the results of your hard work! And if you have some that you just want to display without judging, by all means bring them. We want as many flowers as possible!

The next activity after the Show is an iris potting party at Euthemia's house, 13 Hartwood Road, Delmar, at 9:00 a.m. on Wednesday, June 26th. Bob Keup will be sending Siberian irises and day lilies from Maine and those of you who have Siberians or other beardless irises should dig them up and bring them to be potted. They will be settled in their new pots by the time we have the Iris Sale at Faddegon's on August 3rd. Let Euthemia know what you are bringing in advance, if you can.

I know those of you who were able to attend the April 14th meeting to hear Robert Clyde Anderson were pleased. He gave a great talk on **Garden Extroverts**. Thanks again, Robert, we'll be sure to have you back.

I hope to see you at the Iris Show on June 1st and at the potting party on June 26th.

- Linda

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Robert Clyde Anderson on April 14th

Noted local garden blogger and horticulturalist Robert Clyde Anderson certainly did not disappoint as he boldly led us into spring at our April meeting with his program on "Garden Extroverts", plants that make a dramatic statement in your garden. He discussed the importance of creating drama in our gardens, considering not only size but also texture, form, color, mass and scale. He provided numerous examples of annuals, tropicals and perennials that add a pleasing and powerful punch to the gardenscape and gave us plenty of advice on designing with bold plants, even in smaller-size gardens.

Robert followed his presentation with a bonus program on successful container gardening, sharing many of his own tips and tricks for creating unique and beautiful plantings. On the last page of his handout Robert wrote: "Visit my website, Robertclydeanderson.com, to read *Sempervivum*, an opinionated, sometimes informed and completely unqualified journal of gardens, plants and plantings." Note: It's a great website, well written, with beautiful photography to complement the expert advice.

–Dan Maier & Virginia Dorwaldt

Business Meeting April 14th

Linda Knipper welcomed the attendees noting that this was the last meeting until September. There will be no spring sale this year but the sale at Faddegon's on August 3 will have potted Siberian irises along with the bearded iris rhizomes. The Iris show is June 1st at the East Greenbush Library. Kathryn Mohr encouraged all to bring irises to the show, even if only for exhibition. Wednesday, June 26, is the potting party for Siberian and other beardless irises. Dig your clumps that are ready for dividing and bring them, marked with their names, to Euthemia's house, 13 Hartwood Road, Delmar, at 9:00 a.m. We'll pot them and those sent by Bob and Ann Keup from Maine, to sell along with the iris rhizomes we dig at the end of July. There will be no bus trip this spring. Expense is one of the main reasons. Debra Chowdhury suggested maybe the club could send a bus to the convention next year and be reimbursed if that bus were used by the convention to carry attendees to the various gardens. The possibility of a picnic was raised. Suggestions for programs for next year should be sent to Linda Knipper. Greater Rochester Iris Society is hosting the annual Region 2 meeting October 3. Hybridizer Hugh Stout is the speaker. This will probably be the last major meeting of Region 2.

The Capital-Hudson Iris Society presents their annual

Iris Show



Saturday, June 1st

2:00 - 4:00 p.m.

East Greenbush Community Library

Off Michaels Road & Rt. 156

This judged cut-flower show will have a generous display of named irises of all sizes and varieties grown by iris lovers from around the Capital Region. For additional information, call 518 952-4995.