

Newsletter of the Capital Hudson Iris Society

Volume 24

Number 8

September 2017

** 2017 Calendar ** *Mark your calendars now!*

Sunday, September 17: 8:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m. (approx. arrival time) **CHIS Bus Trip to New York Botanical Garden** and the Dale Chihuly glass sculpture exhibit.

Sunday, October 22: 1:30 p.m. **CHIS Meeting**, East Greenbush Community Library. Speaker (tentative): Douglass Paschal of the Historic Iris Preservation Society on their Guardian Garden project.

Sunday, November 19th: 1:00 p.m., **CHIS Holiday Party**. Pot luck luncheon, bring a wrapped gift if you'd like to participate in the gift exchange, door prizes include gift certificates to iris growers and garden centers.

December: No meeting

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** Join the American Iris Society **
www.irises.org

Fall Bus Trip Sunday, 9/17 to NY Botanical Garden

CHIS will open our new “season” with a trip to the New York Botanical Garden in the Bronx with it’s special Dale Chihuly glass sculpture exhibit located throughout the gardens. **The bus sign-up is full with a waiting list.** If you signed up and received acknowledgement from Linda that you are on the list, you should also have just received a note from Euthemia requesting an RSVP so that anyone with last minute changes can release their seat for the people on the waiting list.

The **Wade Tours bus** will leave from the **Crossgates Mall Macy’s Overflow Lot, Upper Level, West End of the mall** at 8:00 a.m. on Sunday, September 17th. Please get there by 7:45. We will return to the same spot at about 7:00 p.m. **Bring a check for \$50 for each person made out to CHIS** – we do not take credit cards and don’t want to be walking around with too much cash!

It is highly recommended that you bring a bag lunch, snacks and water with you. There are places to buy lunch at NYBG but they tend to be quite expensive and crowded. Go online to www.NYBG.org for restaurant options.

If you signed up but know you won’t be able to go, please contact Euthemia Matsoukas immediately so that she can contact people on the waiting list. Her email address is euthemia@nycap.rr.com. It is important that we have a full bus since we are charging people less than cost (the \$50 charged for each person includes the round trip bus fare, NYBG All-Garden Pass, and a bagel and juice breakfast on the bus.) The bus trip is partially supported by money earned at our Siberian Iris and Perennial Sale and the Iris Rhizome Sale.

The Dale Chihuly Glass Sculpture Exhibit was specifically designed for the NYBG and includes drawings and early works that reveal the evolution and development of Chihuly’s artistic process during his celebrated career. The All-Garden Pass includes admission to the Enid Haupt Conservatory, tram ride around the gardens, current garden exhibitions, the Rock Garden and Native Plant Garden, and the Art Gallery and Britton Science Rotunda and Gallery.

If you have any questions, please send Euthemia an email.



Enid Haupt Conservatory with Dale Chihuly sculpture.

Linda says...

Hello all –

As many of you know, we had a great Rhizome Sale on August 5th, netting just over \$3,000! Bob Keup sent irises from Maine and has already let us know that he's planted more for next year! We couldn't do it without him, he supplies a good half of the irises! We also had many donations from Kathryn Mohr, Pat and Don Salhoff, Virginia Dorwaldt, Bruce Baird and Jim Riddle. Faddegon's staff was very helpful in letting their customers know about our sale in their newsletter, and talking to people during the summer about the upcoming sale. We LOVE Faddegon's, they are so helpful to us!

Our sales help pay for the fall bus trip to the NY Botanical Garden on Sunday, September 17. We're very excited about this excursion, not only because of the myriad of spectacular exhibits at the NYBG, but also because of the addition of the Dale Chihuly glass sculptures throughout the gardens. **Please let Euthemia know if you are signed up but won't be able to go.** I have a waiting list of people who would love to be able to join the trip. We will collect the \$50 on the bus. **Check please, made out to CHIS.** We don't take charge cards and would prefer not to take cash to carry around all day! **Be there at 7:45 to board the bus.** **Instructions on where to find the bus are on the first page of this newsletter.** We leave at 8:00 a.m. sharp!

In October we hope to have Doug Paschall of the Historic Iris Preservation Society give a talk on their project to save historic irises. He's very knowledgeable and who knows, you might have some historic irises in your garden that they're looking for!

I'll see the lucky ones on September 17, and I hope others at the October 22nd meeting. - Linda

View Colchicum's

Come see one of the country's largest collections of colchicums. Kathy Purdy, who spoke at the February Doldrums Party this year, invites gardeners to view the colchicum collection in her garden on Saturday, September 30, 2017 from 11 am to 4 pm, rain or shine. Kathy has over 50 different kinds of these fall-blooming bulbs, many of which will be in bloom at the end of September. Each variety is labeled and attractively situated in the garden with companion plants. Visitors are welcome to bring their own lunch and enjoy it on the screened deck. Set your GPS to 565 Moran Rd., Oxford, NY 13830. For more information, call or text [607-843-7455](tel:607-843-7455) or email kopurdy@gmail.com.

Digging & Dividing Irises

Right in time for rhizome dividing and replanting your large or overgrown clumps of bearded irises, the Maine Iris Society has posted a presentation prepared by the Bluegrass Iris Society on digging and dividing irises. For those of you who have Facebook, just type Maine Iris Society in the search area and scroll down (past all the fabulous pictures of irises) to the August 8th entry. Others may be able to access it by following the instructions in the paragraph below from the Maine Iris Society. Thanks to Bob Keup for forwarding this information!

“Hello Maine Iris Society Members:

I have posted a new iris video to our Facebook page. This is a copy of the Bluegrass Iris Society's presentation on how to dig and divide irises. It also covers information about the iris borer and the use of bleach in the cleaning of dug iris rhizomes. This video is very educational and is good for veteran and novice iris growers alike. To see the video, enter "Facebook.com" in your browser. Click the first choice you are given in a list of websites. When a page comes up, type "Maine Iris Society" in the upper left hand box. This will take you to the site where you can click on the program. I highly recommend this for all members. - Ted White”

Tutorial on Hydrangeas

One of the best gardening blogs is from right in our area, written by Robert C. Anderson of Pondsides Nursery in Hudson, NY. We had Robert as a speaker a couple of years ago and many of us subscribed to his blog at that time. It's a wonderful blog and I recommend it highly. He's very knowledgeable and a fine writer (and includes some magnificent photography in the blog).

Robert's recent blog entry is called “Dept. of Dazed and Confused” and it is probably one of the best tutorials on hydrangeas that Linda and Euthemia have ever seen. If you aren't a subscriber to his blog, it will be posted on the www.Pondsidenursery.com website later this week, sometime after 9/8. It's definitely worth reading (and saving).

If you'd like to subscribe to his blog directly, and not miss some of the greatest garden writing around these parts, write to him at robt.c.anderson@gmail.com. You won't be disappointed.

- Euthemia Matsoukas