

Greater Rochester Iris Society
an affiliate of the American Iris Society
August 2019 newsletter

Well, we are certainly having quite a summer! Hope everyone is keeping as cool as possible and drinking lots of water. It's hard to believe it's August already, and time for our annual rhizome sale.

This will be taking place at Bristol's Garden Center, 7454 Victor-Pittsford Rd. (Rt. 96) Victor, NY. We are scheduled to be there August 10 and 11, from 10 AM to 4 PM. Please help by donating iris, helping at the booth and generally cheering us all on as we embark on a new location!

If you will be donating iris, please let Neil (neil.houghton@me.com) know the names of them by AUGUST 7th. That will give him time to get pictures and set up our sale book. Not familiar with how to dig iris? Well..... let me explain:

The proper way to divide your iris is: the whole clump of iris should be dug up, and then sorted through. Cut off the rhizomes that have bloomed, because they will not bloom again. You can cut the foliage down about 6-8 inches. Write the name of the iris on the foliage using a permanent marker, and the type (TB for tall bearded, SDB for standard dwarf bearded, etc.) and if possible the falls' and standards' colors. Then wash off any excess dirt, check them over for borer damage, getting rid of as much as you can, and dip them into a 10% bleach solution. Don't forget to plant at least one back into your garden! All bearded and beardless types of iris should be done this way, including Siberians and Japanese. Those then have an extra step, since they like to be kept moist, please take a baggie and add a wet towel or jell beads and put the Siberians and Japanese in the baggie. I do have jell beads, and I will make sure to bring them to the sale, if you just have a wet towel in the baggie.

If you don't know the name of the iris, that's ok, we have use of NOIDs (no identification) we sell them for a \$1, give them away to those that buy lots of named iris and also give them to people who have a coupon from our show.

In September we will have our regular meeting, the 8th to be exact. We will be discussing cleaning and prepping your garden for winter, as well as showing the AIS program "Beardless Iris".

Next, on October 4-5, GRIS will be hosting the Region 2 meeting, where the members of AIS Region 2 (New York, Quebec and Ontario, Canada) get together to discuss business and also have some great speakers. This year we will be hosting Hugh Stout, the owner of Stout Gardens at Dancingtree. We will be at the First Presbyterian Church in Honeoye Falls for this event.

The date may change, due to the fact we are having the Region 2 meeting the weekend before, but our October 13th program will center on fall, winter and early spring care of your garden. We'll also talk about bulbous iris and other bulbs in general.

Hope to see you at the sale!

Cara, ed.