

Newsletter of the Capital Hudson Iris Society

Volume 22

Number 6

July-August 2015

2015 Calendar

Saturday, July 25, 9-12: Iris Rhizome Digging Party, Euthemia's in Delmar. Bring your named clumps of bearded irises or just come to help divide other people's irises. Call 439-3758 for info.

Saturday, August 1st, 9-12: Iris Rhizome Sale, Faddegon's Nursery. See July-August newsletter for additional information.

Upcoming Meeting Dates

The following are proposed dates for meetings (preferred dates are first) which still need to be confirmed by the East Greenbush Library. They are being provided here for you to put into your calendars as tentative dates. Meetings are scheduled for 1:30 p.m. The September newsletter will have the confirmed dates and speakers.

Sunday, September 22nd or 15th

Sunday, October 18th or 11th

Sunday November 15th or 8th

Sunday, December 13th or 6th (Party)

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Saturday, August 1 - Rhizome Sale

The Annual CHIS Iris Rhizome Sale will be held from 9:00 a.m. – 12 noon at Faddegon's Nursery on **Saturday morning**, August 1st. Please let all your friends know about it. And **please reproduce the attached poster** and send it around to friends or put it up on bulletin boards in your area, supermarkets, coffee shops, libraries, etc.

The sale offers members and the public the opportunity to buy iris rhizomes at a fraction of their retail cost. There will be bearded irises of all sizes – including miniature dwarf bearded, standard dwarf, intermediate, miniature tall bearded, border bearded and tall bearded irises. This year there will be a special emphasis on tall bearded irises. All the iris rhizomes come from our member's gardens and are therefore hardy in this growing area. And of course, they're all beautiful!

The irises are arranged by type and will be in bags with a picture of the iris. Each iris rhizome you buy is labeled with the name and description stapled to it so that you'll know what you're planting and how tall it is expected to grow.

Members should get to Faddegon's by 7:30 a.m. to help organize the many bags of rhizomes that we will have prepared at the rhizome prep party on Saturday, July 25th (**see below**). And don't forget to bring the bags of rhizomes you are babysitting to the August 1st sale!

Faddegon's is located at 1140 Troy-Schenectady Road (Route 7) in Latham. If you take the Northway (I-87), get off at Exit 6. Faddegon's is 2.5 miles west on Route 7. Call Euthemia at 439-3758 with questions.

Saturday, July 25 - Rhizome Dig

At 9:00 on Saturday, July 25th we will all gather at Euthemia Matsoukas' home in Delmar for the iris rhizome "prep party." For those of you who are new to the Capital Hudson Iris Society, this is a great example of the cooperative group spirit and team effort for which CHIS is known. This is the day we bring our bearded irises to be prepared for the Rhizome Sale at Faddegon's Nursery in Latham the following Saturday morning (see article above). Come even if you don't have any irises to contribute, we always need extra hands to help and you'll learn a lot about dividing irises.

Each person who has irises they want to divide should let Euthemia know what the irises are by 7/17. She will prepare labels and photos for each of the iris bags. If you don't let her know in advance, she can't make labels and photos and the irises won't sell at the sale without them! People want to see what they're buying!
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Linda says...

Hello All,

Saturday, July 25th is our Rhizome Party and the following Saturday, August 1st is the Annual Rhizome Sale at Faddegon's Nursery. This sale is a major fundraiser for our club and a great opportunity to add to your collection of bearded irises. This year we should have an abundance of beautiful tall bearded iris rhizomes with contributions coming from members near and far. Be sure to let your friends know about the sale and distribute the attached flyer to whomever you think will be interested.

Now is time to mark out what you will be digging for the Rhizome Party and send a list to Euthemia so that she can have all the labels ready for the dig. Any named bearded iris that you have enough to divide should be dug as close to the date as possible and put into separate, well-marked bags to bring to the dig. Contact Euthemia if you need assistance or have questions.

The Siberian Iris and Perennial Sale in May was a great success. We grossed over \$2300 but do have expenses to subtract from that. Thanks to all who contributed plants, potted Siberians at the dig, worked at the sale, and to Ann Vandervort and her committee who bought beautiful wholesale plants to round out the collection.

The Iris Show on Saturday, May 30 at the Bethlehem Public Library was also a great success, with Virginia Dorwaldt taking three of the top prizes including Best Specimen of Show. See the article on page 3 for details on the show. Thanks to Kathryn Mohr for all her hard work on the show.

And all our thanks to Marty Shafer and Jan Sacks for hosting our bus trip to their wonderful Joe Pye Weed's Garden on June 7. Those of us who had been there before were once again floored by the beauty of the place, and those who were new to it were open-mouthed with awe. It is truly a spectacular place to visit. After stopping at Kimball's Ice Cream for a little "snack" we went on to O'Brien's Nursery in East Granby, CT and bought beautiful plants. It was Hosta Weekend and many of us were able to supplement our hosta varieties, but there were so many other beautiful plants that people bought. That's a special nursery definitely worth a visit, and it's not far from I-90 Springfield exit.

I hope to see you all at our first fall meeting in September. The details will be in the next newsletter.

- Linda Knipper

Rhizome Dig, continued.

Please remember, we only want named varieties of irises. Generally speaking, if you don't know what your iris is called, don't bring it. The only un-named irises that sell well are the pink ones (you can bring those!). If you have any questions about whether you should bring an iris, send Euthemia e-mail.

New this year: We are no longer able to sell **Iris pseudacorus** (the yellow ones that grow so well in swamps) because New York has declared it to be an invasive species. (Apparently, it was declared invasive in Massachusetts years ago.) So if you have any, don't bring them!

At the prep party, we will take each iris clump, match it to the prepared labels and photos, clip the roots to about 4 inches and trim the leaves to look neat. Each rhizome leaf will then have a label stapled to it with the name, classification, price and description. As the iris is prepared, it is put into the bag with the other irises of the same name. The bag has a photo (if available) and description attached to the front.

At the sale, as people file up and down the aisles they are able to look at each iris and decide whether to take one based on the picture and description. Needless to say, those irises with a photo on the bag do really well in the sale. Others usually have to be sold at reduced rates because people don't really know what they are getting. So you can see why it is so important to let Euthemia know which irises you plan to contribute.

Bring the following items to the prep party: a folding chair to sit on, a folding table (bridge size is good) if you have one, a scissors or dividing knife or garden sheers to trim the irises with, gloves if you want to keep your hands clean, staplers, a roll of Scotch tape, and anything else you can think of that will make our job easier. Be prepared to take bags home to keep indoors (not in a hot garage) for the next week to bring to the sale at Faddegon's at 7:30 a.m. on Saturday, August 1st.

If you need driving instructions to her house or have any questions, call Euthemia at 439-3758.

***Join the American Iris Society at
www.irises.org
and get their wonderful journal***

Fabulous Iris Show

Kathryn Mohr did a great job coordinating the CHIS Iris Show, held at the Bethlehem Public Library on May 30th. The show was a success again with the community, bringing in over 60 visitors. We are grateful to the judges Dorothy Stiefel, Joanne Bassett, Marilee Farry and John Heimke and clerks Joanne Maier, Suzanne Perry and Margo Heck for their outstanding work, and to Don and Pat Salhoff who took the judges to lunch. Suzanne Perry and Magdalena Slone took beautiful pictures. Joanne Maier, serving as Classification Chair for the first time, did a great job. Frank Sorbello, Georgette Martin and Jim Robinowitz traveled up from Poughkeepsie and entered a number of cultivars. Everyone pitched in to clean up. As always, the group effort made a successful show possible. Following are the results:

Best Specimen of Show:

Welch's Reward entered by Virginia Dorwaldt

Region 2 Ethel Ansom S. Peckham Award for Historic Iris:

Tom Tit entered by Virginia Dorwaldt

Kathryn E. Mohr Award for Best Historic Iris:

Tom Tit entered by Virginia Dorwaldt

Silver Medal:

Virginia Dorwaldt with 9 blue ribbons

Bronze Medal:

Kathryn Mohr with 6 blue ribbons

There were 12 exhibitors, 71 entries and 70 varieties.
Section D MTB - 6 entries, Best Of Section: Welch's Reward entered by **Virginia Dorwaldt**
Section E TB, BB - 25 entries, Best Of Section: Paul Black entered by **Frank Sorbello**
Section F Sib - 21 entries, Best Of Section: Seneca Midnight Blues entered by **Virginia Dorwaldt**
Section G Species and Species X - 3 entries (not enough for a Best of Section – need 5 entries)
Section H Historic - 16 entries, Best Of Section: Tom Tit entered by **Virginia Dorwaldt**

Perennial Sale Results

The May 17th Siberian Iris and Perennial Sale at Main Square Shoppes Parking Lot in Delmar was busier than last year, with many more contributions from members and some spectacular Siberians and perennials that were gobbled up by the public. Thanks to all, especially Ann Vandervort for buying wholesale plants to add to the collection, and tending them in her garden before the sale. We will come out with about \$2000 net when we subtract the cost of pots, potting mix and the ad in Our Towne. Great job, everyone! - Euthemia Matsoukas

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Bus Trip on June 7

If it's June, there must be a CHIS bus trip somewhere – and true to form, members took to the road on a beautiful Sunday morning headed for eastern Massachusetts and the amazing garden of irisarians Marty Schafer and Jan Sacks in Carlisle. The weather was perfect and the garden was an absolute delight. Bloom seemed to be at its peak with Siberian irises, peonies, mountain pinks and bleeding hearts at every turn. The seedling beds were of special interest to many in our group, but I was especially intrigued by a tiny (as-yet-unnamed) species iris found by Darrell Probst on one of his horticultural expeditions to the Far East. Hopefully we'll see it offered in the Joe Pye Weed catalog in the near future.

From Carlisle we headed back toward home, but not before making a productive stop at John O'Brien's nursery in East Granby, Connecticut. John's display gardens were also beautiful, and gave us the opportunity to purchase plants in the nursery which we saw growing in the gardens and at Marty and Jan's. There's not a doubt in my mind that there were three times as many plants as humans on the bus going home. I can't wait for next June...
- Dan Maier

Help Omaha Find IB's

While stuck in traffic at the Portland AIS convention, we were asked to introduce ourselves. My contribution was: "Hi, I'm Kathryn. My iris interests are medians and historic." A voice from the back of the bus replied "Hi, I need to talk to you!" The next day, I had lunch with my new acquaintance, Linda Wilkie, president of the Greater Omaha Iris Society where she told me about their work. The Sass Memorial Garden at Mahoney State Park, near Omaha, NE, was built by GOIS. The club continues to sponsor and maintain this public garden. Nebraska winters are harsh, and iris losses at the park frequently occur, so they are asking for help. Later this summer I'll be sending Linda both Flora Zenor and Sea Patrol.

For their Sass Medal bed they are looking for the following IBs: Butterscotch Frills; Cloud Fluff; Cutie; Drummer Boy; Garnet Slippers; Kiss Me Kate; Lemon Flurry; Lillipinkput; Lime Ripples; Little Bit Blue; Moon Child; Nickel; Pink Kitten; Sea Patrol; Silent Strings; Swizzle; and Vamp. If you have any of these irises and would like to donate them to the Sass Memorial Garden, please contact Linda at lrwilkie@gmail.com. For more information about the Sass Memorial Garden, go to the following website: greateromahairissociety.org/SassMemGarden.html.

- Kathryn Mohr

Capital Hudson Iris Society's

Iris Rhizome Sale

Saturday, August 1st

9:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Faddegon's Nursery

**1140 Troy-Schenectady Road (Route 7), Latham
about 2.5 miles west of I-87 Northway exit 6**



Ready-to-plant rhizomes of bearded irises: tall bearded, medians, miniature tall bearded, standard dwarf bearded and miniature dwarf bearded iris

For information call 518 439-3758 or 952-4995