

# Newsletter of the Capital Hudson Iris Society

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## 2016 Calendar

**Sunday, September 25<sup>th</sup>**, CHIS Bus Trip to Tower Hill Botanic Gardens and John O'Brien's Nursery. Tower Hill is in Boylston, MA and the nursery in Granby, CT. See article on the right.

**Sunday, October 16<sup>th</sup>**, CHIS Meeting, East Greenbush Library, Program TBA

**Sunday, November 20<sup>th</sup>**, CHIS Meeting, East Greenbush Library, Program TBA plus bring a special dish for "holiday" cheer.

**December:** No Meeting. See Linda's Column.

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[www.irises.org](http://www.irises.org)

## Sign up for Sunday, 9/25 Bus Trip: Tower Hill Botanical Gardens and John O'Brien's Nursery

The CHIS annual bus trip will take place on Sunday, September 25, with a long-awaited visit to Tower Hill Botanical Gardens in Boylston, MA and a stop on the way back at John O'Brien's Nursery in Granby, CT. This fall event substitutes for our usual spring bus trip which was postponed this year to allow members to attend the American Iris Society Convention in New Jersey. To sign up for the bus trip, e-mail Linda at [Linda.Montanaro@gmail.com](mailto:Linda.Montanaro@gmail.com) and leave your name and a phone number where you can be reached.

The bus will leave at 8:00 a.m. from the overflow lot at Macy's in Crossgates Mall. The lot is located on the Western Avenue side of the mall outside of Macy's, on the second level up. Just look for the Wade Bus and you'll find us.

The cost of the trip is \$50 per person payable at the bus. It includes a bagel breakfast on the bus, entry to the gardens and the special show, and the opportunity to buy lots of plants (or just look) at John O'Brien's Nursery in Connecticut. Bring a bag lunch and beverage as lunch facilities are limited.

The Worcester County Historical Society created the Tower Hill Botanical Gardens in 1986, featuring a year-round display of the finest plants for cultivation in New England. There are carefully planned gardens and collections of ornamental, edible and native plants, plus trails that enhance the natural features of this beautiful 132-acre property. Seventeen distinct gardens are dedicated to the cultivation and display of some of the most exquisite plants in the world, and include a Cottage Garden, an Inner Park with a folly, The Secret Garden, Apple Orchard, Vegetable Garden and many other sites. An added attraction during our visit will be a judged Begonia and Gesneriad Show, including a wide variety of plants for sale. For additional information on Tower Hill, go to [www.towerhillbg.org](http://www.towerhillbg.org).

John O'Brien's Nursery in Granby, Connecticut, will be the second stop on the trip. As well as being New England's premier hosta nursery with over 1,600 varieties, O'Brien's specializes in day lilies, hellebores, daphnes, lilies, unusual dwarf conifers and has over 100 varieties of Japanese maples. Those of us who were there two years ago were overwhelmed with the choices and were very happy we had brought lots of cardboard boxes to put our prize plants in! You will not want to miss this opportunity. For additional information on O'Brien's Nursery visit [www.obriehosta.com](http://www.obriehosta.com).

If you have any questions on the trip, call Euthemia at 439-3758. Be sure to sign up soon as the bus has limited spaces.

August 6<sup>th</sup>, at Faddegon's Nursery in Latham. We made a new record, just over \$3,000! Thanks to Bob Keup, Kathryn Mohr, and Pat and Don Salhoff for their contributions of rhizomes. We were able to send those irises that were left (and there weren't that many) to the Hudson Valley Iris and Daylily Society for their sale the following week.

Our first "meeting" of the fall will be a bus trip to Tower Hill Botanic Garden in Boylston, MA on Sunday, September 25<sup>th</sup>, with a stop on the way back at John O'Brien's Nursery in Granby, Connecticut. See the article on Page 1 of this newsletter for detailed information. Tower Hill will have a special Begonia and Gesneriad Show that weekend as well as their lovely gardens on display. The trip will cost \$50 per person including admission to the Botanic Garden. To sign up, e-mail me with your name and phone number. The address is [Linda.Montanaro@gmail.com](mailto:Linda.Montanaro@gmail.com). We are limited to what the bus holds, 54 people, so get your reservation in early. The bus will leave at 8:00 am from Crossgates Mall, and we should be back by 7:00 pm. For more details on Tower Hill, go to their website, [www.towerhillbg.org](http://www.towerhillbg.org).

The executive committee decided that this year we will **NOT** have a holiday party in December. Each year the number of participants gets smaller and smaller (last year there were only 19 participants) because all of us have such heavy schedules in December. Instead, we will bring a special dish to the November regular meeting (nothing too big, just a little extra special) on the weekend before Thanksgiving. We'll have a regular program but just don't eat too much lunch to make room for the food.

Again I want to beg you to think of good presenters for our upcoming meetings. We did such a good job of earning money on our sales that we can afford to bring in a special speaker or two. Please think and suggest!

- Linda

## **Perennial Sale and Rhizome Sale Did Well!**

Both the spring Siberian Iris and Perennial Sale in Delmar and the August 6th CHIS Annual Iris Rhizome Sale at Faddegon's Nursery in Latham did very well this year. Approximately \$2400 was made at the Siberian Iris and Perennial Sale, and just over \$3,000 at the Rhizome Sale.

The money is used to supplement the cost of the annual bus trip, to bring speakers to our monthly meetings in the fall, winter and spring, and for expenses associated with the Doldrums Party in February (whether we're the hosts or not, we make contributions), the Iris Show and awards, gift certificates, and other ongoing expenses for meetings, the newsletter and sales.

## **Bob and Ann Keup Award being Developed**

CHIS Executive Committee announced that we are developing the Bob and Ann Keup Award for Tall Bearded Irises. This award will be given annually to the best tall bearded iris at the CHIS Iris Show. (In case there is no show one year, the award will not be given that year.)

Bob Keup is one of the founders of the Capital Hudson Iris Society. He and his wife Anne were faithful members for over 15 years and then they retired to their home state of Maine. While they lived in Kinderhook, they had a magnificent iris garden, initially specializing in tall bearded, then branching out to other irises. Every year in late July, the "digging party" would be at Bob and Ann's and we would literally dig their bearded irises for our sale at Faddegon's. Throughout their retirement, Bob and Anne have continued to support CHIS with the contribution of thousands of iris rhizomes to the Annual CHIS Rhizome Sale at Faddegon's, and more recently Siberian, Louisiana and other beardless irises to the spring Siberian Iris and Perennial Sale. Without their ongoing contributions, there would be no sales. Without their ongoing contributions, there would be no CHIS! They work tirelessly on their garden and give generously to CHIS – they remain truly dedicated to ensuring that our club survives and has the wherewithal to continue bringing important speakers to our meetings. Creating a Bob and Ann Keup Award is the least we can do to show our love and appreciation to this wonderful couple who have done so much to see us succeed!