

Newsletter of the Capital Hudson Iris Society

Volume 27

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February 2020

2020 Calendar

Sunday, February 16th: 11:30 a.m., Winter Doldrums Party, Albany County Cooperative Extension. Pot luck luncheon and speaker. **Speaker: Matthew Benson on The Photo-Graphic Garden.**

Sunday, March 15th, 2020: 1:30 p.m., CHIS Meeting, East Greenbush Community Library. **Speaker: Amy Howansky on Beautiful Flowering Trees and Shrubs**

Friday, March 27 – Sunday, March 29: Capital District Garden and Flower Show, Hudson Valley Community College, Troy. At the Doldrums Party you can sign up for a two-hour stint to help man the table for CHIS/HADS/ UNYHS. Look for the table when you go to the show!

Sunday, April 19th, 2020: 1:30 p.m., CHIS Meeting, East Greenbush Community Library. Speaker to be announced.

Other events of interest

AIS 100th Anniversary Convention, May 18th– 23rd, 2020. Based at Marriott Hotel, Liberty Airport in Newark, with tours and events in New York City, New Jersey and surrounding area including the **New York Botanical Garden, the Highline, Presby Memorial Gardens, and Wave Hill.** Google “American Iris Society Convention 2020” and take a look at the program.

Join the American Iris Society
www.irises.org

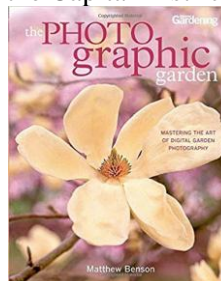
Doldrums Party: Sunday, 2/16/20, 11:30 a.m.

It's time again for the annual Doldrums Party, held each February at the Albany County Cooperative Extension. The Doldrums is a cooperative venture between the Upstate New York Hosta Society (the hosts this year), the Hudson-Adirondack Daylily Society, and CHIS. This year the speaker is Matthew Benson of Stonegate Farm outside of Newburgh. His talk is entitled “The PhotoGraphic Garden”.

See a beautiful garden, a glorious blossom, a splash of perennial color – take out the camera and click. You know that this perfect light, this fragile, miraculous beauty is fleeting. Best to capture it. But knowing how best to capture all that beauty eludes many of us. You put your camera to your eye and shoot away, only to delete the image later when your lowly pixels disappoint. All the aesthetic excitement you experienced in the garden has perished and you're left with a pile of forgettable megapixels. Sound familiar? For anyone who has ever walked through a garden, the rich sensory imprint of color, light, and form can almost overwhelm, while the photographs we take are often a weak facsimile of the remembered experience.

We hope this will change after you hear Matthew Benson's talk, The PhotoGraphic Garden, which is also the title of his book. He will teach how to explore the garden with your camera; how to apply the fundamentals of composition, light, and color to image making; and how to use digital technology to improve and enhance images you've taken. Most of all, you'll be motivated to see like a camera, work like a professional, and imagine and create like an artist. Special attention will be paid to using your cell phone or iPad camera in the garden.

The Doldrums begins at 11:30 a.m., Sunday, February 16th, at the Albany County Cooperative Extension, 24 Martin Road, Voorheesville, NY 12186. (Come at 10:30 if you can help to set up.) For directions, log onto their website or call Euthemia at 518 439-3758. Bring some food to share and a contribution for the door prize table if you've got one. Be ready for a great feast, an informative talk, some excellent door prizes and socializing with some of the best gardeners in the Capital District!



Linda says...

Dear Gardeners -

I hope you are looking forward to the Doldrums Party, hosted this year by the Upstate NY Hosta Society. One of our members, Brian Michaud, reported that he has been to speaker Matthew Benson's Farm in the Hudson Valley. Brian was very impressed with both the farm and Benson's knowledge and ability to present. And the fact that he will be paying special attention to the use of the iPhone and other similar devices is especially exciting. I know it will be an afternoon well spent. Doldrums begins at 11:30 at the Albany County Cooperative Extension in Voorheesville. Come at 10:30 if you can help set up, and bring something delicious to share. It's a chance to meet new people and reconnect with old friends.

Cathie Gifford gave a great presentation on Clematis at our January meeting. The breadth of her knowledge and lovely slides cemented my love of clematis. Thank you Cathie!

Our March speaker will be Amy Howansky, giving a talk on Beautiful Flowering Trees and Shrubs. Dan and Joanne went to a presentation of hers and were very excited to be able to schedule her for our meeting.

Let me know if you've got any ideas on talks you'd like to hear or speakers you've listed to whom you know we'd also like. We're always looking for new ideas.

See you at the Doldrums!

- Linda

CHIS Contacts

CHIS Chair: Linda Knipper, Linda.Montanaro@gmail.com
518 377-4987

Vice Chairs: Dan and Joanne Maier, Danjomaier@gmail.com
518 449-8480

Secretary: Virginia Dorwaldt, vmdorwaldt@gmail.com
518 439-3110

Treasurer: Don Salhoff, driris2000@hotmail.com
518 439-1484

Newsletter editor: Euthemia Matsoukas,
EuthemiaMatsoukas@gmail.com
Or euthemia@nycap.rr.com
518 439-3758

Iris Show Chair: Kathryn Mohr, kemohrke@aol.com
518 952-4995

Clematis: Queen of the Flowering Vines

Cathy Gifford, a Master Gardener Volunteer, presented a program on clematis for the January meeting. Her talk focused on varieties that grow well in the Capital District. The clematis were divided into categories (as follows) and each category was accompanied by beautiful slides of those particular varieties.

1. Super early and super easy (no pruning necessary)
Examples: Markham's Pink, Pamela Jackson
2. Summer bloomers, fast growers and very easy
Examples: Betty Corning, Pagoda
3. Those that don't climb, very easy
Examples: Blue Boy, Serious Black
4. The Kivistik collection, summer bloomers, super winter hardy
Examples: Little Duckling, Minister
5. Summer bloomers, large flowers, very easy
Examples: Ernest Markham, Jackmanii
6. Summer flowers, cupped flowers, easy
Examples: Duchess of Albany, Etoile Rose
7. Really tall and easy
Examples: Summer Snow, Virginiana
8. Early bloomers, not recommended for beginners
Examples: Candy Stripe, Silver Moon

Those are just a few of the beautiful clematis that were pictured in the presentation. Several references were cited in the handout that accompanied the presentation. Cathy highly recommended Hummingbird Farm in Maine as a source for cold-hardy clematis.

<http://hummingbirdfarm.net/>



Little Duckling



Summer Snow