

# Newsletter of the Capital Hudson Iris Society

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## 2020 Calendar

**Sunday, January 19<sup>th</sup>, 2020:** 1:30 p.m., CHIS Meeting, East Greenbush Community Library. **Speaker: Cathie Gifford on Clematis.**

**Sunday, February 16<sup>th</sup>:** 11:30 a.m., Winter Doldrums Party, Albany County Cooperative Extension. Pot luck luncheon and speaker. **Speaker: Matthew Benson on The Photo-Graphic Garden.** See page 1 and next month's newsletter for more details.

**Sunday, March 15<sup>th</sup>, 2020:** 1:30 p.m., CHIS Meeting, East Greenbush Community Library. **Speaker: Carol Coogan, former Times Union nature writer.**

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

## Other events of interest

**AIS 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Convention,** May 18<sup>th</sup>– 23<sup>rd</sup>, 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](http://www.irises.org)

## Clematis, Clematis, Clematis! Sunday, January 19<sup>th</sup>, 1:30 p.m.

Happy New Year to all! Our first meeting of 2020 will feature Cathie Gifford giving a talk on Clematis. Whether you pronounce it CLEMatis or ClemATIS, they're some of our favorite plants and there are SO many varieties. Cathie will include tips on where to plant, how to plant and how to help them thrive.

A resident of Albany, Cathie Gifford has been a Master Gardener Volunteer with the Albany County Cooperative Extension since 1997. In the Master Gardener's Memorial Garden in Voorheesville, she and her husband created a Shaker-style culinary herb garden in 2003 and a formal knot garden in 2004. Besides knot and Shakespeare gardens, her interests include the Shakers and their gardening legacy, bird-friendly gardening, and clematis. Gardening is an active pursuit and passion that she shares with her husband (and she knows how lucky she is to have such a willing partner!). Cathie is a retired music teacher in public schools, professional classical soprano, and also worked at UAlbany's School of Social Welfare.

Coffee and goodies will start the afternoon at 1:30, there will be a short business meeting, and then Cathie's talk will begin. The East Greenbush Community Library is located on Community Way off Michaels Road in East Greenbush, New York. If you need driving directions to the library, you can go online to [www.eastgreenbushlibrary.org](http://www.eastgreenbushlibrary.org), hit "contact us" and in the lower right corner is a map and a way to access directions. Feel free to bring a friend or two.

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

In case you're new to CHIS, you'll want to know about our annual February meeting, known as The Doldrums Party. We have a big potluck luncheon along with the Upstate New York Hosta Society (the hosts this year), and the Hudson-Adirondack Daylily Society, and a speaker of interest to all the groups. This year the speaker is Matthew Benson of Stonegate Farm outside of Newburgh. His talk is entitled "The Photographic Garden". There will be more detail in the February newsletter, but just know it promises to be a useful talk that most of us will benefit greatly from!

The Doldrums begins at 11:30 a.m., Sunday, February 16<sup>th</sup>, at the Albany County Cooperative Extension, 24 Martin Road, Voorheesville, NY 12186. Come early 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 great door prizes and socializing with some of the best people!

## Linda says...

Dear Gardeners -

We had a lovely Holiday Party in November, with good food, gift certificates for door prizes, a beautiful slide show and a fun gift exchange. If I do say so myself, we are a really nice bunch of people with strong gardening interest and skills, and a wonderful cooperative spirit. Everyone helped and I think everyone enjoyed themselves. I know I did!

I hope you had a good holiday season and are ready to get right into 2020! Our first speaker of the new millennium will be Cathie Gifford giving a talk on Clematis. I love them, I'm sure you do, and it will be very helpful to have more education on varieties and how to grow them better.

February is our annual Doldrums Party with the Hosta and Daylily Society. Matthew Benson will be giving a talk on photography in our garden and how to improve our skills, even if we're using an iPhone or other simple device. Doldrums begins at 11:30 at the Albany County Cooperative Extension in Voorheesville. Come earlier if you can help set up, and bring food to share. It's always a delicious and informative meeting, and a chance to see old friends and meet new ones.

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 on January 19<sup>th</sup>.

- Linda

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## Highlights of the AIS Convention 2020

Below are listed some of the highlights of the May AIS Convention to be held in the NYC metropolitan area, with a New Jersey hotel and tours of NYC and New Jersey gardens and parks, as well as AIS Convention events. Do consider going to all or part of the convention. You won't be disappointed.

**5/18: 8-5 The Highline, optional tour**

**5/19: 8-5 Liberty Park, optional tour**

**5/20: All Day. Programs by AIS Sections** including Median Iris Society, Siberian, Spuria, Japanese, Louisiana Iris Societies, and many more.

**5/20: 8:00 PM, Kirk Ryan Brown, Keynote Speaker,** President of the Garden Writers Association Foundation: The Foundation for Garden Communicators. He is a horticulturist, botanist, business lecturer and dramatist appearing across the US and Canada.

**5/21: 9-3. Presby Memorial Iris Gardens.**

The Presby contains thousands of historic and modern irises collected over its many years of existence. The gardens will also include the entries to the first ever AIS International Iris Competition.

**5/22: All Day at NYBG**

Spend the day at AIS founding garden site, the New York Botanical Garden located in the Bronx. The 250-acre site's verdant landscape supports over one million living plants in extensive collections. Visit a large iris garden with guest irises for the Convention. At 3:00 Gary White, AIS Immediate Past President will give a lecture for convention attendees.

**5/23: 9-11 Wave Hill Gardens**

Wave Hill is a magnificent 28-acre estate in the Bronx. We will visit a small guest iris planting at this location and visitors will enjoy the beautiful gardens overlooking the Hudson.

**5/23: 7:00 – 10:30 PM. Eagle Rock 9/11 Memorial, Closing Banquet and Awards Ceremony at Highlawn Pavilion Restaurant.**

On May 23, 2020 sunset is scheduled at 8:13 p.m.; we are planning to be there to pay individual tributes to those that perished during 9/11/2001. After viewing the New York City skyline, we will walk just a few feet to another section of the park to the **Highlawn Pavilion Restaurant** to end the evening with dinner, keynote speaker and the awards ceremony.