

American Rhododendron Society

Editor's email: e.bristol@comcast.net

<http://www.rhododendron.org> <http://members.aol.com/RandANews/news.html>

Cape Cod Chapter Newsletter

Feb. 11, 2007

Sunday Feb. 11 Meeting 2:00 PM

AN INTRODUCTION TO RHODODENDRONS AND THEIR CULTURE

LARRY PANNELL

February's speaker is Larry Pannell who will provide an introductory talk for those interested in the basics of Rhododendron culture and care. This is the meeting for anyone who wants to get started in rhododendrons and has questions ... or who wants to relate successes.

Mr. Pannell has had a lifelong interest in horticulture and spent many years managing his family's 40-acre tree farm in Carlisle MA, prior to moving to the Cape. Larry moved to Sandwich 10 years ago when he acquired a portion of the former Briarwood Nursery property as a house lot. He became interested in Dexter Rhododendrons based on their local history and became even more interested when he discovered that people were willing to pay good money for them!

For the past eight years, Mr. Pannell has grown and sold Dexters and other rhododendrons that appeal to his senses. He favors hardy rhododendrons that are big and showy, with fragrance or unusual coloring or appearance, and that are generally unavailable or difficult to acquire in the trade. His slide show includes many Dexters, some of his favorite non-Dexter plants and what he calls "Gully Lane Mysteries" – gorgeous rhododendrons hybridized by the properties previous owner, but missing tags and therefore of unknown parentage.

His talk will cover basic varieties of rhododendrons, propagation, planting, care and feeding, pruning, and pest and disease management, and is geared towards novices or individuals who are inexperienced in their culture. Members and guests are encouraged to bring their questions; there will be ample opportunity for discussion of plant problems and successes. There will also be a selection of plants available for purchase after the meeting.

The meeting will be at our Cape Cod Community College location in the Grossman Commons building, Room C106. Parking is in lot 9, with parking places for handicapped (and for those bringing meet-

Will members with last names starting in the first half of the alphabet (A-M) please bring goodies?

P4M Work Days: 10 AM Saturdays Feb. 24, Mar. 24, Apr. 28; May 12 is the Sale day; at Planeview Nursery, 770 Wapping Rd., Portsmouth, RI.

ing items; sticker not needed) in front of the building. The meeting will be at 2:00 in room C106

MASS CHAPTER FEBRUARY MEETING

Open to anyone: Their meeting is Sunday, Feb. 25, 1:30 at the U. Mass, Waltham Field Station (240 Beaver Street; I can give you directions if you call or email me. Or look at: <http://www.rosebay.org/chapterweb/waltham.htm>.) The speakers are Jan Sacks & Marty Schafer on "Adventures with Iris and Primula - Expanding Choices for the Shade".

They have been gardening since the late 1970's. They grow all types of plants, annuals and perennials, from tiny rock garden plants to the giants grown for the cut flower industry. They started breeding Siberian iris in the mid 1980's and began their mail order nursery, Joe Pye Weed's Garden. They are now also selecting and breeding small shade-loving iris, versicolors, primroses, epimediums and other fine garden plants.

They are seed exchange chairmen for the Species Iris Group of North America and are collaborating with Darrell Probst to introduce to American gardeners the new Asian irises he has collected. Their slide talk will focus on their favorite plants for shade and semi-shade. Come beat the winter doldrums with pictures of wonderful blooming companion plants.

Get in the mood by checking out their new web site: www.jpwflowers.com

LAST MONTH'S MEETING

We had a two-part Sally and John Perkins talk last month. Sally gave her usual stimulating presentation of slides and talk, this time of several gardens included as part of the dual 2006 Maryland ASA/ARS conference. Locations covered were:

McCrillis Gardens, with 5 acres of mature specimens and quiet paths, the Azalea collection, R. calendulaceum, Cornus kousa, and Stewartia malocodendron;

Reiley-Ridge Nursery, with R. Fantastica, R. Leann, R. Lucas' Best Red, R. Mardi Gras, R. Albert Close, R. A. Bedford (by Lowinsky), R. Pearce's American Beauty, R. Parker's Pink, R. Calsap, R. Ice Cube, R. Spellbinder (Leach), R. Delp's Star-

dust, R. Tiana (Murcott), R. Tolstead's Ma Belle, R. Gilbert Myers (Myers), R. yakushmanum, R. Cadis (Gable), Exbury Azaleas, R. periclymenoides, R. Royal Star (Hardgrove), R. minus, R. Reileyridge Bright Day, R. Reileyridge Picotee, R. fortunei x Caractacus, R. Evening Glow x Janet Blair #1, R. Sweet Sue x Reiley's Grandnephew, and R. Sweet Sue;

Mike and Deb White's Azalea Nursery, with White's azaleas; George Harding's Home and Garden, with Harding's heritage azaleas and old varieties.

John gave a "Hybridizing in New Hampshire" talk which was drawn from a late night "Yakitty Yaks" talk at this meeting. He discussed some of the New Hampshire related hybridizers including Gus Melquest, Stuart, and (John himself?) Perkins.

LAST MONTH'S BOARD MEETING

Doug opened the meeting with a discussion of his thinking on our goals and objectives. He proposed that one of our objectives should be education, in our meetings, newsletter, and in the newsletter articles that he has been encouraging. There was discussion of the Annual Dinner at the Daniel Webster on April 22 (corrected from the Apr. 21 yearbook date). Daniel Webster requires prepayment and there was discussion of being sure we got the needed timely reservations.

Doug is requesting input for membership services including a web site to encourage newer and younger membership. A typical web site might include: A Home Page, Membership Info, National Goals, The Cape Cod Chapter, Directions to Meetings, A Photo Gallery, A Chapter Blog with Questions and Answers. (For any who haven't seen the National and Mass Chapter web sites, their addresses are: <http://www.rhododendron.org> and <http://www.rosebay.org/chapterweb>.)

Doug is also emphasizing that we should develop a Club History and also a Process Manual and Cal-

endar of Monthly Tasks, to inform and encourage potential new officers. He would like input on these. There was discussion of various alternative ways of providing for Garden Tours and a proposal to ask for ideas at the February meeting.

The Treasurer's report listed 7/05-6/06 income at \$14964.27 and expenditures of \$14,931.99. The 6 month to December 31 income was \$2402.65 vs. expenditures of \$5486.86. Current assets are \$16,041.54 including \$4,235.29 special restricted funds. There was a discussion of our budgetary practices and the desired level of reserved assets. It is time to prepare nominations for the next year and the committee is beginning to seek them (volunteers?).

The Plant Sales will be on May 5 in Orleans and May 12 (the day before Mother's Day) in Sandwich. As usually Larry will need all the volunteers he can get.

If you desire to change to either print or email version notify the editor by email.

E. H. Bristol
28 Union St.
Foxboro, MA 02035