

American Rhododendron Society

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<http://capecodrhododendrons.org/>

<http://www.rhododendron.org>

Cape Cod Chapter Newsletter

Mar. 8, 2009

Sunday Mar. 8 Meeting 1:30 - 5:00 PM

FOUR SOUTH SHORE GARDENS

JOHN & DONNA DELANO

John and Donna Delano will take us on a virtual tour of the following gardens in Southeastern Massachusetts (all gardens of members):

1. Dick and Cathy White - Sandwich
2. John and Donna Delano - Duxbury
3. Gene and Barbara Gingras - Norwell
4. Henry and Barbara Wrightington - Hanson

Donna has made up slide shows of each of these gardens and John will narrate the presentation and identify the plants (and other attractions) shown. Many of the plants are Dexter and rare Cowles hybrids and will make for a colorful reassurance that: **Spring is just around the corner!**

The meeting will be at our current Cape Cod Community College location in the South Building, Room SG8 (first on the left from the lobby, through the sliding door). Use Parking Lot 4, or, for handicapped parking, use the steep road opposite to get to those spaces we can use. Refreshments and socialization will start at **1:00 PM**, in the lobby, with the business meeting at **1:30** and speaker by **2:00**.

Last Month's Meeting

[Because many of the Board members were missing there was no Board meeting.]

Last month, the narrow-minded Rhodie-holics listened instead to an organic farmer, Gretel Norguet, and heard about bees, chickens, veggies, and assorted wildlife. This was fun. Gretel grew up in Orleans at a time when there were still a number of farms with cows and other livestock.

Their (husband and kids) farm, bought about eight years back, is divided into four quarter acre gardens, which, over the years, they have experimented in dividing in several combinations of mulching and path/plant layouts. They plant the paths with rye grass which they mow for chicken feed.

She started showing their bees, which they buy as swarms in boxes with the queen separated. This is arranged so that the bees free the queen by eating through candy! I didn't hear much comment from Rick Rys although he was there; you know that Rick

Will members with last names starting in the last half of the alphabet (N-Z) please bring goodies?

P4M Work Days: 10 AM Saturdays: Feb. 28, Mar. 28; at Planeview Nursery, 770 Wapping Rd., Portsmouth, RI.

Board Meetings: We plan a Board Meeting after the March Meeting.

April 19 Annual Dinner: Andrew Bunting speaking on "Legacy of Scott Arboretum/Dr. Wister Rhododendrons". This will be at the Jailhouse Restaurant in Orleans again.

Plant Sales: May 9 in Orleans, May 16 in Sandwich.

keeps bees?

She also showed a side line of moving bees out of peoples houses and sundry bird houses and other locations. A process: covering holes with one-way ports until all of the bees have moved themselves into a movable box.

They also keep chickens for their eggs, as a break even proposition, with commercial feed (on top of kitchen feed etc.), because she likes them. She finds bought chicks to start more practical. I should have brought my grandkids to ooh and ah over these. A dog makes a more normal pet and worker! The dog keeps the foxes (also shown) and coyotes at bay when the chickens are out of there house.

Among the garden plants are those grown from bought seedlings; I may not be as lazy as I thought.; and garlic, grown from cloves, for which there is great demand. Part of their experimentation has been with the development of composting (of anything that the chickens don't eat).

Snakes, box turtles, crab-eating frogs, a spider with babies, deer. The deer don't eat the veggies as much as you might expect; just forest growth; how do we make rhodies seem like veggies? A tomato horn-worm chrysalis. She doesn't normally worry to much about these because they host wasp eggs.

Like all labors of love: hard work, morning, noon, and night. Among things, Gretel showed a list of bee favored flowering plants, and gave it to Judith Shay. Judith in turn gave me the website ([http://www.barnstablebeekeepers.org /resources/ beeforage.html](http://www.barnstablebeekeepers.org/resources/beeforage.html)) from which the list below is drawn. The list was collected from the following sources in 2008: the internet, Barnstable Beekeepers Association, Honey Plants of the Northeast by John H. Lovell, pub 1926 by the A.I. Root Company, and Weeds of the Northeast, pub 1997 by Cornell University Press:

Heath	Heather	Iris
Witch hazel	Crocus	Fetterbush
Alder	Anemone	Beech
Bloodroot	California poppy	Castor oil plant
Chestnut	Furze (Gorse)	Grape
Hepatica	Crocus	Red Elder
American Elder	Black Elder	Hackberry
Black currant	Red currant	Gooseberry
Shadbush	Forsythia	Redbud
Red Maple	Gill-over-the-ground	Blueberries
Crabapple	Scotch broom	Japanese barberry
Poppy	Pussy willow	Weeping willow
Rosemary	Bog rosemary	Black locust
Candytuft	Inkberry	California lilac
Choke cherry	Strawberry	American Holly
Huckleberry	Hawthorns	Butternut
Bachelor's button	Rock spray	Penstemon
Sage	Foxglove	Mountain Laurel
Drooping leucothoe	Rhododendron	Rose
Thyme	Black Gum/Tupelo	Ajuga
Clovers	Cranberries	Skip Laurel
Mint	Raspberries	Blackberries
Tulip poplar	Sedum	Scarlet sumac
Staghorn sumac	Chicory	False indigo
Spearmint	Snowberry	St John's wort
Borage	Musk mallow	Blue vervain
Dandelion	Catmint	Blanket flower
Milkweed	Amer Linden, Basswood	Heavenly bamboo
Bearberry	Bean tree	Spider flower
Russian olive	Lupine	Persimmon
Phlox	Lavender	Basil
Clematis	Buckeye	Mullein
Sweet pepperbush	Aster	Glossy abelia
Butterfly bush	Cup plant	Hyssop
Hemp agrimony	Bee balm	Sumac
Sunflower	Germander	Purple coneflower
Purple coneflower	Coralberry	Buttonbush
Jerusalem artichoke	Anise hyssop	Aster
Boneset, Thoroughwort	Chrysanthemum	Goldenrod
Rose of Sharon	Lacecap hydrangea	Russian sage
Sourwood	Mexican sunflower	Black-eyed Susan
Meadow Rue	Rock Rose	

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