

American Rhododendron Society

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

Cape Cod Chapter Newsletter

Nov. 11, 2007

We are sorry to miss last month's meeting, but this month there are two possibilities: our meeting on November 11, and the Mass Chapter's Founder's Day Brunch on November 18 at Tower Hill. Whatever you do if you have never been to Tower Hill, go there some time; it's gorgeous! So:

Sunday Nov.11 Meeting 2:00 PM

NEW AND NOTEWORTHY PLANTS

RON RABIDEAU

Ron is General Manager of rareFINDnursery. He has a BS in Plant and Soil Science and has participated in seed collection expeditions to China, Tibet, and India.

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 meeting items; sticker not needed) in front of the building. Refreshments and socialization will start at 1:30 PM with the meeting at 2:00 in room C106. Last Month's Meeting. **Any new members who would like a chapter/rhodie orientation at 1:00** before the regular meeting should call Connie LeClair at 508-255-2009.

MASS CHAPTER FOUNDERS BRUNCH (Nov. 18)

This year's Dick Brooks Memorial Speaker is Judy Glattstein, who will focus on woodland flowers as companion plant for our rhododendrons. Judy is an author, garden designer, and lecturer. The festivities (brunch) start at 10:00, and the meeting will start at 11:00. There will be the usual seed exchange. **The deadline for reserving a spot is November 4.**

Please send your checks (\$34 per person) to Pete Littlefield, 75 Oak St., Holliston, MA 01764 before that date.

Directions to Tower Hill

Arrive at Interstate 495 after the Bourne Bridge by your favorite way. Follow 495 to the 290 exit near Worcester. Take 290 west toward Worcester. From 290 take Exit 24, Church St., Northboro / Boylston. Go right at the foot of the exit ramp following Church St. toward Boylston, about 3 miles. The entrance to

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

P4M Work Days: 10 AM Saturdays Nov. 24; Feb. 23, pr. 26, Mar. 22, with May 10 the Sale day; all at Planeview Nursery, 770 Wapping Rd., Portsmouth, RI.

Tower Hill, at 11 French Dr., is on the right, well signed.

Just tell the attendant you are attending the Brunch; you shouldn't need to pay. Parking lots are up the entrance road near the buildings. They meet in the main building (Stoddard) in one of the meeting rooms down the long corridor. The quoted mileage from Hyannis Airport to Tower Hill is 100 miles and 1 hr. 45 min.

LOW GROWING AZALEAS

Connie LeClair

The evergreen low-growing azaleas are very useful in a woodland garden. Some are very flat, some stay about 18" tall and other are somewhat taller but have a spreading shape rather than upright and bushy.

This group are very low maintenance, as they need little if any pruning. They serve as ground covers under trees, on the apex of a curve as a focal point, on banks, as well as fronting taller rhododendrons. Their small leaves are a contrast to larger leaved rhododendrons.

I recommend the following with which I have experience, but there are many more:

HILDA NIBBLET: Splotched light and dark pink. I have a group of three on a corner. Not only beautiful in flower, but wonderful foliage and I have never had to prune it. Late blooming. **SIR ROBERT** is similar.

MICHAEL HILL: Pink. Have it under a Cornus Kousa. Blooms at the same time in June. Needs very little pruning. Many of Polly Hills azaleas are low growing. Sally Perkins also recommends **MARYDEL**, **ALEXANDER**, **JOSEPH HILL**, and **SUSANNAH HILL**. These are very tempting to rabbits.

BALSAMINAEFLORUM: Coral. Very double. Late. One of my favorites. Have it on a northeast facing bank. Never fails to flower well.

KIUSIANUM: I have alba, but there are many others. Tiny leaves.

GUMPO: Comes in pink or white. Single late blooms.

NANCY OF ROBINHILL: Pale pink blotched red and ruffled. Very beautiful. I have used it to under plant trees

and face larger rhodies. Needs some pruning.

KOMO KULSHAN: Dark pink with a pale pink center.
Needs some pruning of long stems.

YUKA: Coral. Tops the stone wall in the Display Garden in Orleans.

I recommend putting chicken wire around all newly planted small azaleas until they put on some growth. They do well planted in partial shade and need water in our dry summers.

Connie LeClair
October, 2007

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

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