

American Rhododendron Society

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

Cape Cod Chapter Newsletter

Oct. 14, 2007

Sunday Oct.14 Meeting

2:00 PM

HYDRANGEAS

MAL CONDON

A life long gardener, Mal has been propagating and growing hydrangeas for the last twenty years. He established Hydrangea Farm Nursery in 1999 jointly with Frank Dutra of Nantucket Hydrangeas (established in 1997) and grows an eclectic selection of more than 1,000 named hydrangeas.

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. The meeting will be at 2:00 in room C106. Last Month's Meeting

Last Month's meeting featured Wayne Mezitt of Weston Nurseries. His talk was a greatly enjoyable combination discussion of Weston's history, introductions, and informal give and take. He opened with a frank discussion of the immediate history which ended up with Wayne being the sole owner. The emphasis will be on shifting to marketing the great plants that Weston has introduced to date. They will defer the kind of extensive hybridization carried out under his father.

Weston's historic development concepts, focused on New England (Zone 5 or colder), improved flowering and foliage (particularly in winter), improved or compact habit. They sought to extend the season of interest or satisfy unfulfilled landscape needs. Of course, they sought low maintenance and pest/disease resistance, and easy propagation and home grower friendliness.

In marketing these strengths, terminology is recast to be better understood by the average home grower. The classic Weston lepidotes, like PJM, flowering before Mother's Day in Hopkinton, that we all know and love become "Early Rhododendrons", asterisked to indicate Weston introduction.

The later blooming elepidotes are presented as "Large-Leaf Rhododendrons", including Normal season: late May to early June, and Late flowering, after mid June. A newer emphasis on Summer Flow-

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

P4M Work Days: 10 AM Saturdays Oct. 27, Nov. 24; Feb. 23, pr. 26, Mar. 22, with May 10 the Sale day; all at Planeview Nursery, 770 Wapping Rd., Portsmouth, RI.

Special Note: The **Yearbook is in error** on the **Mass Chapter Founders Day Date at Tower Hill**. It should be **Nov. 18**,

ering azaleas is intended to extend the season.

BOARD MEETING

After the last month's meeting there was a meeting of the chapter board. The treasurer's report gave the years income as \$17,237.00 and expenses as \$17,735.00. Total funds as of the end of August are \$20,841.34. As elaborated below we are in the process of establishing a web site. It was moved, seconded, and passed that the chapter support a web site. This should amount to about \$50-\$100 a year.

Our Christmas Party will again be at the Palmisano's. Plans are still ongoing. We have a special speaker for the Annual Dinner: the curator of the Rhododendron Species Botanical Garden. It will be especially important that we provide him with a large attendance. The Display Garden has been supported with a crew this summer. And we need to get going on next year's officer nominations.

TOWER HILL/WESTON NURSERY PROJECT

The Chapter's honorarium given to Wayne Mezitt for his talk on Sunday September 9 is being passed along to Tower Hill Botanic Garden in Boylston, MA. Wayne's family and Weston Nurseries are in the process of establishing a shade garden there to be named for Ed Mezitt, Wayne's dad. As you probably know, Wayne worked with his dad for many years hybridizing, selecting and introducing dozens of rhododendron and azalea cultivars well adapted to New England that Ed began developing more than 50 years ago.

Tower Hill is a major horticultural institution, and the Mezitt family believes this will be an appropriate location to preserve the legacy of Weston Nurseries for years to come. Honoraria from Wayne's various presentations have been contributed over the last several years, and the endowment is now more than 20% funded. For more information about Tower Hill or Weston Nurseries, you can visit their websites:

www.TowerHillBG.org, www.WestonNurseries.com.

WEB SITE PLANS

As indicated earlier anyone can see the current intended format for the web site at the URL (address): <http://www.duckwebdesign.com/ARS/arsindex.html>. At the board meeting and our most recent committee meeting (end of September), we defined the following pages.

Home Page	Membership Info	National Goals
Cape Cod Chapter	Directions	Photo Gallery
Related Links	Chapter Blog	Officers (new)
Events (new)	Member Articles (new)	Newsletter Archives (new)
Chapter Library (new),	Display Garden (new)	

The member articles correspond to the articles that Doug has proposed to support the newsletter. We intend to simplify the management of the library by listing its contents on the web site and allowing members to order any desired books by phone or over the web site. Thus the librarian needs only bring ordered books plus a few new books to the meeting for general examination.

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

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