

**American Rhododendron Society
TAPPAN ZEE CHAPTER**

Welcome back to the 2015-2016 season of the Chapter. I sincerely hope all of you and your rhododendrons had a great summer. As you read this newsletter you will see that a small group of members has been active over the summer insuring that Chapter members have a productive year. We look forward to seeing everyone on the 19th to start it off.

I have an ongoing request to members to submit garden photos for publication in this Newsletter. Please submit anything that is of interest. To get us started, here is something I noticed in our garden:



About 11 or 12 years ago, a large but very leggy *R. maximum* that had been planted long before we bought our property seemed to be dying, so we decided to move it to a different area. We transplanted it and Lydia cut it down to half its size. Still, over a few years, we watched it slowly deteriorate to the point where there were no longer any branches, just naked trunks, and we decided it had to come out. When we went to remove it in the Fall of 2011 we noticed above that it had sprouted leaves, so we cut down the trunks and let it be.

Below is a photo of what has happened to it now, four years later. This is really an atypical transplant. This older plant was dying before it was cut to half its size and transplanted. A few years later, it started to sprout and the barren trunks were removed. This must have had some effect on how long it will take this rhododendron to regenerate. Below is a photo of it four years after it started sprouting, and I don't think much has happened over four years. But we have decided to just let it be and watch what happens.



MEETING INFORMATION

**United Methodist Church
130 Berthoud Street
Park Ridge, New Jersey**

**2:00 p.m. Saturday
September 19, 2015
12:00 p.m. for lunch**

SPEAKER - Marc Zukovich:

“It Starts with the Soil”



Marc is President of Sterling Horticultural Services and an Adjunct Professor of Horticulture at County College of Morris. He holds a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Botany from Drew University and certificates from Harvard Graduate School of Design and the New York Botanical Garden. Prior experience includes being a District Manager for Brickman Industries, managing a 38-acre private estate in Alpine, NJ, and over 20 years of managing the grounds of Honeywell Inc's World Headquarters, formerly Allied Signal, in Morristown. He frequently lectures for adult schools and community groups throughout New Jersey, and offers on-site consultations as "The Garden Coach"™ to homeowners.

In this presentation, Marc will discuss the basics of soil composition, what our plants need in order to grow well, the fundamentals of fertilizers and how all of this pertains to Rhododendrons.

Marc spoke to us last year on Pruning. He brought in samples and demonstrated proper procedures. His talk was very well received and we are fortunate to have him back in September to speak on soil

GOVERNING GROUP – As previously reported, our recently elected President has had to resign her position for personal reasons, and our newly elected Vice President is not yet in a position to assume the Presidency. In order to keep the Chapter functioning, a group of officers and Committee Chairpeople have formed a group to govern the Chapter. They are:

Irene Card	Treasurer, February Fling Chair, Nominations
Arnold Card	Plant Sale Chair
Gus Cerini	Newsletter Editor, Communications Coordinator
Lydia Cerini	Corresponding Secretary
Roberta Cripps	Recording Secretary
Al Fitzburgh	Program Chair
Mildred Fitzburgh	Membership Chair
Fran Morton	Vice-President Elect

These eight individuals, seven of whom constitute a majority of Board members, have assumed the responsibilities of initiating and coordinating the activities which are crucial to maintain a productive functioning of the Chapter.

DUES – ARS Regular and Associate membership renewals are now due. You will shortly receive a dues renewal envelope preaddressed to Irene Card. Regular memberships for two people in the same household are \$40 and Associate memberships are \$10. If you are attending the meeting, please bring the envelope to the meeting. If not, please place your check in the envelope, stamp it and drop it in a mailbox. Note if you do not want your phone or e-mail address published on Chapter or ARS rosters, write “No” on the back of the envelope.

In the past we have had considerable bother with checks made out to ARS and not to Tappan Zee Chapter, when depositing them in our Chapter account. Again this year, please make your check **payable to Tappan Zee Chapter, ARS.**

EASTERN REGIONAL CONFERENCE – Many of you often ask where the beautiful hybrids we see in slide presentations by local hybridizers can be obtained. One year grafts of spectacular new creations by local hybridizers will be available at the ARS Eastern Regional Conference, “Long Island’s Legacy Revisited” to be held at the Islandia Marriott, 3635 Express Drive North, Islandia, NY 11749 on October 16-18. Many members of our Chapter will be helping and/or attending. If you have never attended an ARS conference, this is a great opportunity to do so in a local venue. The special hotel rates will expire on September 15, but I see no cut off date for non-refundable registrations, the form for which can be accessed in the Spring 2015 issue of the ARS Journal on page 51.

ARS BLOG –The “All about Rhododendrons Blog” is a new feature on the ARS web site. In it you will find many blog entries of interest to both seasoned and beginning rhododendron lovers. It can be accessed at <http://www.rhododendron.org/blog/default.asp>.

PRE-MEETING DINNER – Please join us for a 12:00 noon lunch at Davey’s Locker on Kinderkamack Road just below the Railroad Station in Montvale. At our pre-meeting lunches, the total bill is divided equally among the group. However, alcoholic drinks, except for the speaker’s, are not allowed onto the totaled bill. Please pay for your alcoholic drink separately.

HOSPITALITY – Refreshments will be handled differently this year. Coffee and dessert will be provided by Mildred Fitzburgh along with Shirley Anderson and Irene Card for this meeting. Mildred will present her plan for selecting “volunteers” for future meetings.

THE 2015-2016 TAPPAN ZEE MEETING SCHEDULE

MEETING DATES 2015-2016 – When Holidays do not interfere, and except for our February Fling, which is held on the fourth Saturday, our meetings are held on the third Saturday of the month. However, because of the Fall Regional Meeting to be held on Long Island from October 16 to 18, we have rescheduled our October meeting to the 24th, the fourth Saturday of the month. Here is a preview of our schedule:

September 19	Marc Zukovich	Soil
October 24	Pat Walton	Transplanting root bound plants
November 21	Don Hyatt	His Bucket List
February 27	February Fling	Jim Fry
March 19	Al Fitzburgh	Hands on propagation clinic
April 16	Flower show	(Winter cooperating)

CHAPTER CONTACTS

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The next meeting will be on October 24, 2015 at 2:00 PM
For directions or any other inquiries call Lydia or Gus Cerini at 845-735-3475