

## This meeting was canceled due to inclement weather

American Rhododendron Society  
TAPPAN ZEE CHAPTER  
[www.tappanzee.org](http://www.tappanzee.org)

This meeting heralds the onset of Spring. Here's a picture of what the deer did over the winter to one of our rhodes:



But as you can see under that rhode, they don't like hellobores. These two were bought at RareFind years ago, are distasteful to deer, always flower, and aside from crocuses, etc. are the first Spring flowers we see.



## MEETING INFORMATION

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

**2:00 p.m. Saturday  
March 18, 2017  
12:00 p.m. for lunch**

**SPEAKER: Arnold Friedman**

**"From Gardener to Garden Designer - The History and Methods of Landscape Design".**



Arnie is a Rutgers Master Gardener, and a President of the Bergen County Master Gardener Association, whose Speaker Bureau he now runs. He is certified by the New York Botanical Garden in Landscape and Garden Design and Horticultural Identification, and operates his own "Landscapes by Design" business.

He has been on staff as an instructor at the New York Botanical Garden, and every year lectures on the history and methods of design to the new Master Gardener Class. He frequently lectures to various Garden Clubs and associations in the metropolitan

area.

**NOVEMBER MEETING** – Our February Fling featured George Woodard, Superintendent of the Phipps Estate and one of the country's foremost hybridizers. George gave a beautifully illustrated presentation on hybrids he has developed at the Phipps estate and also featured the results achieved by other hybridizers. Here is George describing a hybrid he has projected:



And here are photos of members who attended our annual pre-spring get together and enjoyed his talk:



Melinda & Lester Martin





Irene & Arnold Card



Ellen & Don Stoneham



Marianne & Bruce Feller



Shirley & Allan Anderson



Betty & Karel Bernady



Lydia & Gus Cerini



Roger Pellegrini & Diane Story



Fran Morton & Bernie Golden



Al Fitzburgh





Roberta Cripps



Midred Fitzburgh & Pat Walton

Our February Fling was also an occasion that recognized the services that Martin Winkler has consistently performed for the Chapter. Here is Mildred Fitzburgh presenting him with a Certificate which reads:

*We express our sincere appreciation to  
Martin Winkler  
in recognition of your personal commitment  
dedication and performance*



**LINKS** – Remember our website, [www.tappanzee.org.is](http://www.tappanzee.org.is) a great place for finding a listing of our activities.

Mildred Fitzburgh has asked me to notify everyone that her email address has changed. It is now [mfitzburgh@icloud.com](mailto:mfitzburgh@icloud.com)

**PHOTO CONTEST** – If you can find a photo with a Fall theme, email it to me. It's not too late to enter the April Tappan Zee photo contest. Any digital picture with a Fall topic is eligible. It can have been taken anytime, it can have been Photoshopped, and there is no limit on the number of entries! Wow, I wish they had contests like this when I was actively submitting photos! I'll twist Irene's arm and see what kind of prizes we can come up with.

**HOSPITALITY** – I want to thank Roberta Cripps and Irene Card, the hospitality hosts for the November meetings for the goodies they provided. Everyone should be aware that



the hosts supply these spreads at their own expense and are not reimbursed by the Chapter. The hosts for this meeting are Ellen and Don Stoneham and Fran Morton.

**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 these pre-meeting lunches, regardless of what has been ordered, 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.

**ANTI DEER SUGGESTION** – The following is excerpted from emails submitted to the Yahoo Rhododendron Group by Joseph Brusco of the Massachusetts Chapter:

**“Many people cannot fence their property for various reasons. For them I would recommend use of a chemical called bitrex. It was described by a friend and chemist who first made me aware of it (paraphrasing) as "the second most bitter chemical known to man, non-toxic, but the tiniest bit of it on the tongue will give you an experience you will never forget, and will last for hours". He spoke from experience. I believe it is a component in some of the commercial deer repellents. I'm also told it is put in some poisonous products to make them unpalatable. Used in a relatively high dosage, it gives the deer (or any other mammal) the experience described previously.**

**Three years ago when New England was experiencing Snowmageddon, the heavy snow brought down most of our fencing and the deer herds were coming into our garden at will. There was nothing I could do to repair the fence, since most of it was under 4 feet or more of snow. So I tried bitrex for the first time. It is water soluble, so I mixed it in a tank of water on a day it was above freezing, strapped on my newly acquired snowshoes (you couldn't navigate the deep snow without them) and sprayed around the edges of the rhodo groupings. The effect was immediate. 12 hours prior a herd of 6 deer were feeding on our plants as usual. They entered our property the night after I sprayed, then we never saw them again the rest of the winter. Even though the next rain must have washed it off, I believe the memory of that experience kept the deer from coming back. To this day, our damage has been much less than prior to using bitrex.**

**Bitrex can be purchased on the web. If you google ‘Where to buy bitrex’ (denatonium benzoate) you will get a number of hits. I got mine via a "group order", from the friend that made me aware of it. He bought a kilo or so of the pure, powdered form from an on-line vendor. Don't know which one in particular he used. He split it up for a number of us, to share the cost. If I recall correctly, it is about \$100 per kilo. A kilo would probably last you and your entire neighborhood the rest of your lives. You can also buy it**

**dissolved (in glycerin?), I believe, which would make it less likely you will accidentally get a grain or two of the very fine powder in your mouth. Probably more expensive in dissolved form.**

**The single time I had to use it, I used a couple teaspoons of the powder in a gallon of water. This was probably overkill by a factor of 100, as the literature says a small amount (tablespoon?) in an Olympic-sized pool can be tasted. It may also account for the fact that the deer never again damaged our rhodies & azaleas for the past 2 years.**

**Wear a dust mask when handling the powder, and mix outdoors if possible. Mixing it with a sticker, like WiltPruf may increase its longevity, but I found I didn't need it."**

If the Chapter were to purchase a kilo of Bitrex and divide it into smaller portions, how many people would be willing to buy it for about \$3.00 an ounce?

### **THE 2016-2017 TAPPAN ZEE MEETING SCHEDULE**

Please mark your calendars for these future activity dates:

**MEETING DATES 2017** – 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. The following schedule is posted in every Newsletter and on our website for the convenience of those who have not entered the dates in their calendars.

March 18	Arnie Friedman	Landscape Design
April 15	Member Meeting	Photo Contest-Truss show-Show& Tell
May 13	Annual Plant Sale	
TBA	Garden Luncheon	

### **Contacts**

#### Your Governing Group:

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

#### Your Board:

Allan and Shirley Anderson	201-337-8216
Arnold and Irene Card	973-838-6153
Gus and Lydia Cerini	845-735-3475

Roberta Cripps	201 573 0732
Al Fitzburgh	973 226 5796
Marvin Klibonoff	845 354 3421
Jean Lange	845-735-2089
Virginia Shen	201-573-9211
Pat Walton	201-327-1344
Martin Winkler	973-663-2572

The next meeting will be on Saturday April 15, at 2:00 PM  
For directions or any other inquiries call Lydia or Gus Cerini at 845-735-3475