

August 2008 • Volume 49 No. 3

Rhododendron



Great Lakes Chapter
American Rhododendron Society

GREAT LAKES CHAPTER
AMERICAN RHODODENDRON
SOCIETY

PURPOSE

A nonprofit organization whose aim is to promote in the Great Lakes region the objectives of The American Rhododendron Society; to encourage interest in and dissemination of information about genus rhododendrons including azaleas; to provide a medium through which all persons interested may communicate and operate with others of like interest through educational and scientific studies, meetings, publications and similar activities.

MEETINGS

Meetings are held four times each year, on the third weekend of March, May, August and October, unless other wise indicated.

MEMBERSHIP

Membership is open to all persons interested in the growth and culture of rhododendrons and azaleas as per the Chapter By-Laws. Those persons interested in becoming a member should contact the Membership Chairman, Dr. L. Gordon Walters.

OFFICERS / BOARD MEMBERS

President	Fred Palmer	814-371-2079
	cfpalmer@verizon.net	
1st V. Pres	Dr. Jim Browning	412-373 8689
2 nd V.Pres.	Jane Konrd	412-741-6721
Secretary	Jill Griesse	740-587-3736
Alt.Secretary	Jerri McCain	740-676-0149
Treasurer	Colleen Palmer	814-371-2079
Membership	Dr. L.G. Walters	724-287-2047
Past President	Dr. Mark Konrad	412-741-6721
GLC Newsletter	Annette Pizzino	440-248-4583

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Bert Hendley	Bob Frenzel	6 year term
Margaret Corbin	Blanche Browning	4 year term
Kay Walters	Dr. L. G. Walters	2 year term

Books: Fred Palmer, new and new unsold books available

Lending Library: Annette, Tony Pizzino, 440-248-4583.
Books : Rhododendrons, azaleas, companion plants and other informative plant material; videos, slides.

Cover: Chas Wagner, 'Goldsworth yellow,' deep-pink azalea—large, colorful, varied garden. Picturesque setting, former stone winery, swift-running brook.

Photo Tony Pizzino

President's Message

Hello everyone,

We had an enjoyable time at our annual truss show in Cincinnati, Ohio hosted by Chris Trautmann. In spite of a smaller than normal turnout there were a good number of trusses entered in the show. Our new chief judge, Dr. Jim Browning did a great job assisting everyone at getting the trusses into their correct categories. With Jim's guidance, the judging went along very smoothly with some new faces in the judges seats. Thank you Jim for a job well done and Thank You to all who entered trusses and to everyone that pitched in to help out!

After Lunch, we all went to visit Les Smith's garden. He has a lot of beautiful mature rhododendrons growing under large oak trees on his property and many younger plants growing in his propagation area. I really enjoy seeing how each and every person that grows and propagates rhododendrons have their own methods and ideas on what works best for them in their garden or situation. Les was also our evening speaker and he gave us the history of his garden and how it transformed into what it is today. Thank You, Les.

Next, it was on to our host Chris Trautmann's garden. Chris has a nursery garden in Amelia, Ohio. There is a nice collection of conifers and witches brooms along with many rhodies and unusual trees that grow well in Chris's garden. If you are ever in Amelia, stop by and see Chris's garden/nursery, you'll be glad you did.

Our August meeting will be held at Eagle Bay Gardens in Sheridan, New York, hosted by Chas and Karen Wagner, see the insert in this journal. Sounds like a very interesting nursery to visit.

GLC Board of Directors, Bert Hendley is efficiently looking into clarification of our Chapter's Status concerning 501c3. Thanks, Bert. Preliminary talks continue on—recognition of Great Lakes Chapter hybridizers. Please feel free to enter your ideas, or suggestions on the above project. Steve Krebs' suggestion of the Helen S. Layer Rhododendron Garden (Holden Arboretum) as the site of this project plus, links to ARS, GLC, and Holden contributions are being researched. We still don't have definite plans for the October meeting or the Truss Show for next May, ideas anyone?

*Hope to see everyone soon,
Fred*



Bits by Bev

Great Lakes Chapter Truss Show Saturday, May 10, 2008, Cincinnati, Ohio.

Our Host was Chris Trautmann.

The attendance this year was much smaller than usual. My personal thoughts regarding same: starting with the fact that many member's plants were not yet in bloom, it was Mother's Day weekend, already high gas prices, etc. Keeping all that in mind – 99 trusses were entered into the competition. Thirty took first place, and twenty took second place. Best in show was won by Dr. Jim Browning's entry 'Phyllis Korn.' Jim also took second best in show with 'Susy Ring.'. All the other winners are listed elsewhere in our Bulletin. The most ribbons won were by Chris Trautmann.

Dr. Browning, being our new head judge feels "everyone should be a part" surprised us all by picking 3 men and 3 women as judges. Good move, they were the following members: Harold Berg, Jill Griesse, Dr. John Guyson, Collene and Fred Palmer, and Annette Pizzino.

We spent the afternoon visiting Les "Smitty" Smith's and Chris Trautmann's Mowbray Gardens. Smitty's garden featured some of his own crosses, and other named hybrids. We had visited Chris's place a few years ago, one couldn't imagine the growth of the plants since we were last there. Upon entering one sees a huge conifer garden – very impressive.

Les "Smitty" Smith was also the evening's speaker, he guided us through his beautiful Rhodo gardens with a slide show. Starting with his property dating back to the early 1960's. There was nothing there – no trees or flowers of any kind, just a brick home. He showed vintage slides of what 40 years of planning and hard work can do – WOW! Grapevine has it that Smitty can repair any watch ever made.

Thank you Smitty and Chris Trautmann. Your yards are breath taking – also, the refreshment "Treats" you provided for us hit the spot on a sunny warm day!

Award winning trusses, good food and conversation. The icing on the cake, everyone left with a plant of either (Blazen Sun x Sardinia) selfed, or (Dead Ringer x Prcyl's yellow fortunie) selfed given to us by our host Chris Trautmann.

Until next time.



Photos top to bottom

'Phyllis Korn', Best in Show, 'Suzy Ring,' 'Capistrano'
2. Smitty's Garden, Cincinnati, Oh. 3. Chris Trautmann's fabulous dwarf conifer collection, Cincinnati, Oh. 4/5. GLC member Jim Steinke's recently moved rhodo garden to Loveland, Oh. A great grouping of well tended Purple Martin houses—mosquitoes, don't have a chance here!
Photos Tony Pizzino

Great Lakes Chapter Truss Show Awards

May 10, 2008



The David Leach Award for Best in Show

Phyllis Korn

Dr. Jim Browning

The Joseph Gable Award for Second Best in Show

Susy Ring

Dr. Jim Browning

The Orlando S. Pride Award for the Best Proven Performer

Capistrano

Annette Pizzino

The Sir Joseph Hooker Award for the Best Species Rhododendron or Azalea

The Judges' choice from all the blue ribbon winners of the hardiest, most vigorous, and easy to grow rhododendron

Leach yaku 59-5

Dr. Jim Browning

The Weldon Delp Award for the Best Lepidote

For the best truss or spray of a hybrid or species Lepidote

Windbeam

Wolfgang Koger

The Exbury Award for the Best Hybrid of yakushmanum

For the best truss of a first or advanced yakushmanum hybrid

Fantastica

Chris Trautmann

The C.O. Dexter Award for the Best Truss of a Pink Rhododendron

Queen Mary

Dr. Jim Browning

The Robert Blough Award for Best Truss of a White Rhododendron

Wynterset White

Annette Pizzino

The Dr. Tom Ring Award for the Best Truss of a Red Rhododendron

Susy Ring

Dr. Jim Browning

The William Fetterhoff Award for the Best Truss of a Yellow or Orange Rhododendron

Capistrano

Annette Pizzino

The Peter Girard Award for the Best Truss of a Purple to Near Blue Rhododendron

Dexter's Purple

Les Smith

The Otto Prycl Award for the Best Spray of a Deciduous Azalea

Arneson's Gem

Chris Trautmann

The Tony Shammarello Award for the Spray of a Persistent Leaf Azalea

R. yedoense var. poukhanese- Korean Azalea

Wolfgang Koger

The Homer Salley Award for the Best new Hybrid Never Before Shown

Ring's Monarch X R.O. Delp

Chris Trautmann



After 40 years, Bill Isner says goodbye to the Rhodie Garden and his friends at Holden

by Daniel Rush, *media coordinator*

Isner helped create the layers of the garden's landscape

in May 1967, Bill Isner was fresh out of the Army, where he had worked in intelligence, but he wanted to use his skills to create beauty with the flowers and plants that he grew with such a passion for as a boy in West Virginia.

May 16, 2008 will mark 41 years at The Holden Arboretum for Isner and also the end of his long and influential career here. Since 1970, Isner has toiled in the soil and worked wonders with vegetation to help create one of the premier rhododendron gardens in Ohio.

Although the Helen S. Layer Rhododendron Garden took root in 1970, it was a long time before conditions were right for making it the showcase it is today.

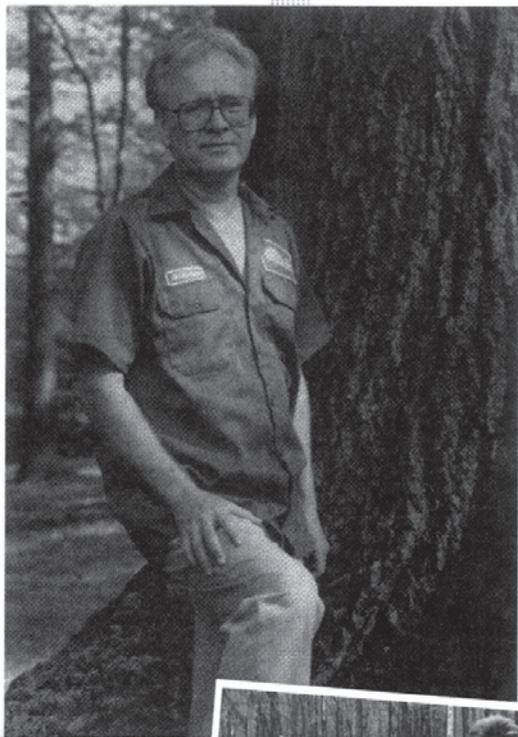
"We spent 10 years improving the soil and drainage," said Isner, referring to the challenges of the location in its early years. But he got it right . . . very right. After clearing brush to open up the garden west of the old red oak, and on Beech Knoll, Bill set to work creating the color palette of the plantings. Spending most of each year throughout the '70s working in the garden and beyond, Isner spent his winters making display labels and helping with plant records. "This was actually how I learned my Latin," recalled Isner.

His work continues, Isner said. Before his retirement, Isner worked to beautify the Heath Pond area of the garden, coordinating colors to best reflect off the water, creating a magnificent view. He plans to continue to work with Holden as a volunteer, using his skills and knowledge. But he also plans to work on his own garden and spend some time examining the work of gardeners, visiting many other gardens in the region.

So, for someone who knows so much about the Layer Rhododendron Garden, what advice does Isner offer his successor?

"Just be sure they know these plants and the special care they need," referring to the garden's vast array of species. The next in line has a glorious garden and high standards to maintain.

As for now, expect to see Isner out and about still. He has no plans of slowing down before his last day, and we wish him well in his new adventures. ✨



Above:
Isner in 1990
with the now fallen
150-year-old red oak.

Right:
With former Director
R. Henry Norweb Jr.,
beginning the layout
of the Layer
Rhododendron
Garden.





Recognizing the Great Lakes Hybridizers

Steve Krebs, Director, David G. Leach Research Station of the Holden Arboretum shares some thoughts on recognizing the merits of the GLC hybridizers:

From the newsletter and a few members, I have heard about the GLC's possible interest in creating a display that recognizes the achievements of regional hybridizers, and putting this display in the Helen S. Layer Rhododendron Garden at Holden. At least that's how I understood it. Blossom McBrier floated an initial proposal for a piece of art and that received mixed reviews.

May I suggest an alternate concept: What the Layer Garden could really use is an interpretative display (I'll call it an information kiosk) that introduces the public to the world of rhododendrons – species, distribution, diversity, hybrids, ornamental value, and culture. In addition, some useful things like a garden map showing trails and other key collections (e.g. ericaceous companion plants could be included.) I envision an artfully designed open air structure with a roof over display walls containing first class weatherproof graphics and text, situated somewhere near the main entrance to the garden. This concept would recognize local breeders since that is the bulk of the hybrid collection at the Layer Garden. Possibly, the collection could be revamped to include more plants from underrepresented hybridizers, such as Lanny Pride. But the regional piece would be part of a much larger expose on the subject of rhodies.

To finance this kiosk, I suggest raising 20-25K from 3 sources – 10K from the GLC, 5K from ARS National (Blossom received pledge of 5K from ARS National)—and 10K (perhaps more) from the Stanley Smith Horticultural Trust, which funds a variety of horticultural activities, especially for educational purposes. I have received funding from them before, and they grant up to 20K. There is also a possibility of private donations for this type of project. Final cost has to be determined, but Holden's interpretative staff, who handles signage, might have an answer.

To my way of thinking, this would be a great use of the GLC's war chest, and meet our mission statement head on. Holden's garden will be maintained and developed for the foreseeable future, so it is as good a site as can be found. And of course, the GLC would be recognized, and I think we could ask for some advertising as well. Steve Krebs

skrebs@holdenarb.org Apr – Nov 440.428.3966 Dec – Mar 440.602.3831

The real art of gardening is to make a plant that has come from distant lands not only looks at home but feels at home.
—Lionel de Rothchild

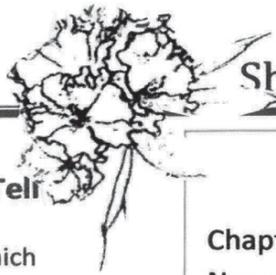
'Gardens Open'

ARS National News

Our National Society is attempting to compile a Garden Guide of private gardens that traveling members can visit. Anyone interested in participating in sharing your garden, send your name, address, telephone number, e-mail address and, a brief description of your garden to me. I will forward this list to ARS National. Our Great Lakes members have beautiful gardens and I hope "our" list will be darn good! Spike

www.Spike1932@earthlink.net

L. Gordon Walters
218Mushrush Road
Butler, PA 16002
724.287.2047



Short Updates

Trail With a Tale To Tell

The Appalachian Trail, which spans 2,200 miles through 14 states from Main to Georgia could provide clues to our changing environment, according to the *New York Times*. The trail is a living laboratory of protected slices of land that could reflect environmental changes such as higher ozone levels, acid rain, smog, and other air quality indicators.

Now an effort is underway to better understand changes along the trail and use that information to help people understand environmental changes. The monitoring effort is being undertaken by a diversity of citizen groups among them the Appalachian Trail Conservancy and the American Hiking Society, and supported by the National Park Service, U.S. Forest Service, Cornell University, the National Geographic Society, and Aveda Corporation. Trail hikers should be able to volunteer to help with this monitoring program within the next year

American Forest Winter 2007

Rhododendron ID: "A", "B"
Provided by Chris. Trautmann
"A" 'Deadringer' x Prycl yellow fortunei selfed.
"B" 'Blazen Sun' x 'Sardinia' selfed (Dinner gift rhodos,5-08
Well grown, stocky plants

www.greatlakesrhodies.org

Chapter website—needs your favorite garden photos.
New format from National ARS
Your photos will appear in a private, members only section.
There will be a user-name, and a password
Linda will bring us up to date at the August meeting.
Linda Stull Webmaster lmsgardener@yahoo.com
13568 Old lake Rd. East Springfield, PA 16411
814-922-7612

John Heinze was asked—"how to prune an overgrown rhodo?"

Either Weldon Delp or Dave Leach told me that red rhodos do not respond to the typical pruning of overgrown rhodo plants.

Typical pruning is the same as for many plants. In spring, just after new leaves are out, but not fully flat and open, prune not more than 1/3 of the overgrown branches down to about an inch above where you can see leaf scars on the stem. Many times you can still see little growth buds on the stem that were in the leaf axil, trim above them. What you might want to do is to pick one and try this to see what results you have on that plant. Many times you trim down to about 6 inches or 12 inches from the ground. That leaves you with a small bush starting over, but you can decide how far down the stem you want to go.

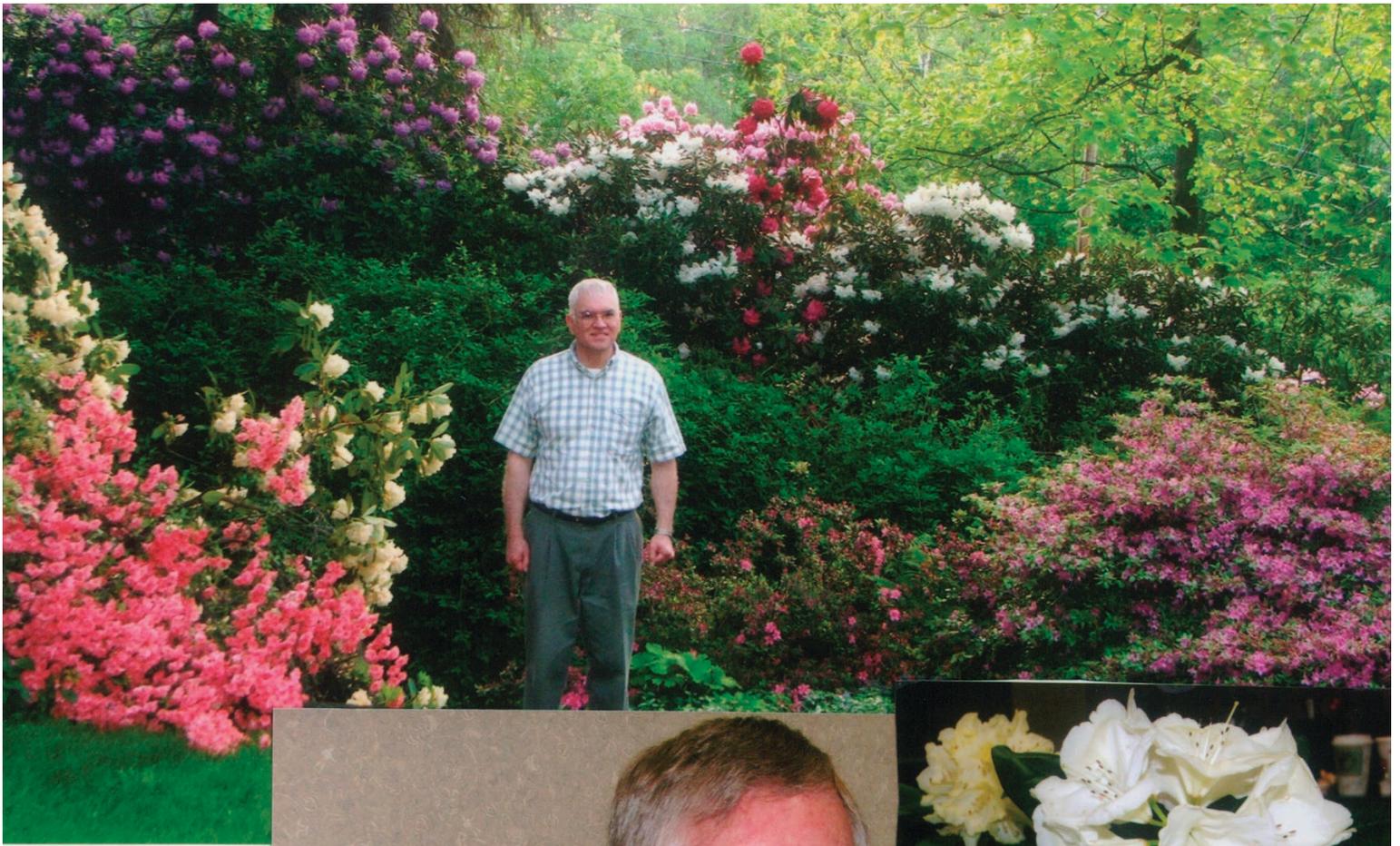
John will update us further on rhodo pruning techniques. Thanks, John!

GLC member Karen Wagner of North East, Ohio tells us she uses Starbuck coffee grounds in her beautiful rhodo garden. The following "Tip" from The Cleveland Plain Dealer *Inside/Out* 3-6-08

Put coffee grounds on the ground:

Relaxing in the garden with a cup of coffee can make you feel good, but did you know that coffee can make your garden look good, too? Not liquid coffee, of course, but coffee grounds. Garden writer Emma Cooper shares how to compost with coffee at the Web site www.howtodothings.com/home-garden/how-to-compost-with-coffee. Always use fresh grounds because they quickly start to get moldy, Cooper writes. You can also use coffee grounds on the soil as mulch. Their dark color absorbs heat from the sun and can help the soil warm up, and they'll add nutrients to the soil as they break down.

Roxanne Washington



Top photo, Chas & Karen Wagner Garden, North East, Pa., far right Insert, Best in Show, 'Phyllis Korn' Won by Dr. Jim Browning. Bottom Photo, Jim displays 'Suzy Ring', and 'Capistrano'. Photos Tony Pizzino



Great Lakes Chapter, ARS
Annette Pizzino
34900 Lakeview Drive
Solon, OH 44139-2027

Places to Stay:

Recommended:

Best Western Dunkirk & Fredonia

3912 Vineyard Drive
Dunkirk, NY 14048

Mention "Rhododendron Society"
(book on-line, the price is \$99.99)

www.bestwestern.com

Other motels – nearby

www.metrotravelguide.com.hotels/fredonia/ny/usa

Days Inn Dunkirk – From \$99

The White Inn – From 109

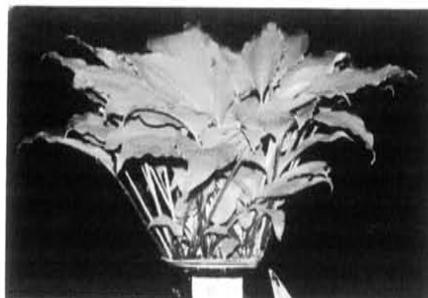
Clarion Hotel Dunkirk – From \$122
view of Lake Erie

Comfort Inn Dunkirk – From \$126

Dunkirk Motel – From \$94

ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES FOR SUNDAY:

- **RAN IS HOSTING THE WESTERN NY HOSTA SOCIETY. ALL OF US ARE INVITED!! ALL YOU NEED IS A DISH FOR THE PICNIC. (BUY SOME BRATS OR A DESSERT AT THE STORE)**
- **Fredonia** is the center of the world's largest grape crop of a single variety – Concord.
- At least 15 **wineries** are along Lake Erie's shores – travel packets will be available.
www.newyorkwines.org www.chautauquawinetrail.org
- All along Route 20 and 5 are **farmstands** and/or pick your own.
Sweet corn, blueberries, peaches, vegetables aplenty.
- World famous **Chautauqua Institute** is 24 miles from Fredonia.
Sunday is FREE.
2:30 PM is Barbershop Harmony Parade www.ciweb.org
- About 40 miles to the west is the town of **North East, PA.**
Several rhodo member gardens could be toured – Details to follow.



Ran's Blue Ribbon hostas - at First Look in Vermont – June 27 & 28

GREAT LAKES CHAPTER SUMMER MEETING
SATURDAY, AUGUST 16TH
COMPANION PLANTS - HOSTAS

Date: SATURDAY, AUGUST 16TH

Place: EAGLE BAY GARDENS
2892 Main Rd. (Rt. 20)
Sheridan, NY 14135
(map on another page)

Host: Chas & Karen Wagner

Noon – 1 PM

Bring Lunch (Sack or Drive Thru) to Gardens.
– pavillion and restrooms available – beverage and dessert provided

1:00 – 4:30

Guided Tour of Eagle Bay Gardens with **Ran Lydell**

Group will be divided – Seminar with **Mike Shadrack** (Co-author of several hosta books. Chairman and Bulletin Editor of the British Hosta & Hemerocallis Society. Member of American Hosta Society, president of the Western NY Hosta and Daylily Society. His interest in photography has led to a library of nearly 3200 hosta images, many of which have been published in books, magazines and catalogs.)

SHOP !!!! Plants and books (signings available) for sale - Bring Cash or checkbook

5:30 – 6:30

Social Hour & Plant Sale – White Inn in Fredonia - www.whiteinn.com
Bring plants!!

6:30 – 7:30

Dinner – White Inn - Historic ‘Duncan Hines’ Inn and Restaurant

7:30 – 8:30

Evening Program - “*The Comparisons of the Japanese and Chinese Gardens*”

Speaker:

RAN LYDELL:

Ran is an author, award winning hybridizer of hostas and daylilies, frequent speaker of the American Hosta Society. He is a member of every plant society except the ARS (Let’s see what we can do about that!!!) He is the owner of Cook’s Nursery and the Eagle Bay Gardens. www.eaglebaygardens.com

SEND DINNER RESERVATIONS TO:

{Deadline August 6th}

Karen Wagner
11274 Curtis Road
North East, PA 16428
814-725-1584
wagsix@roadrunner.com

Dinner Choices: \$28.00

(Qty)

_____ Chicken Oscar

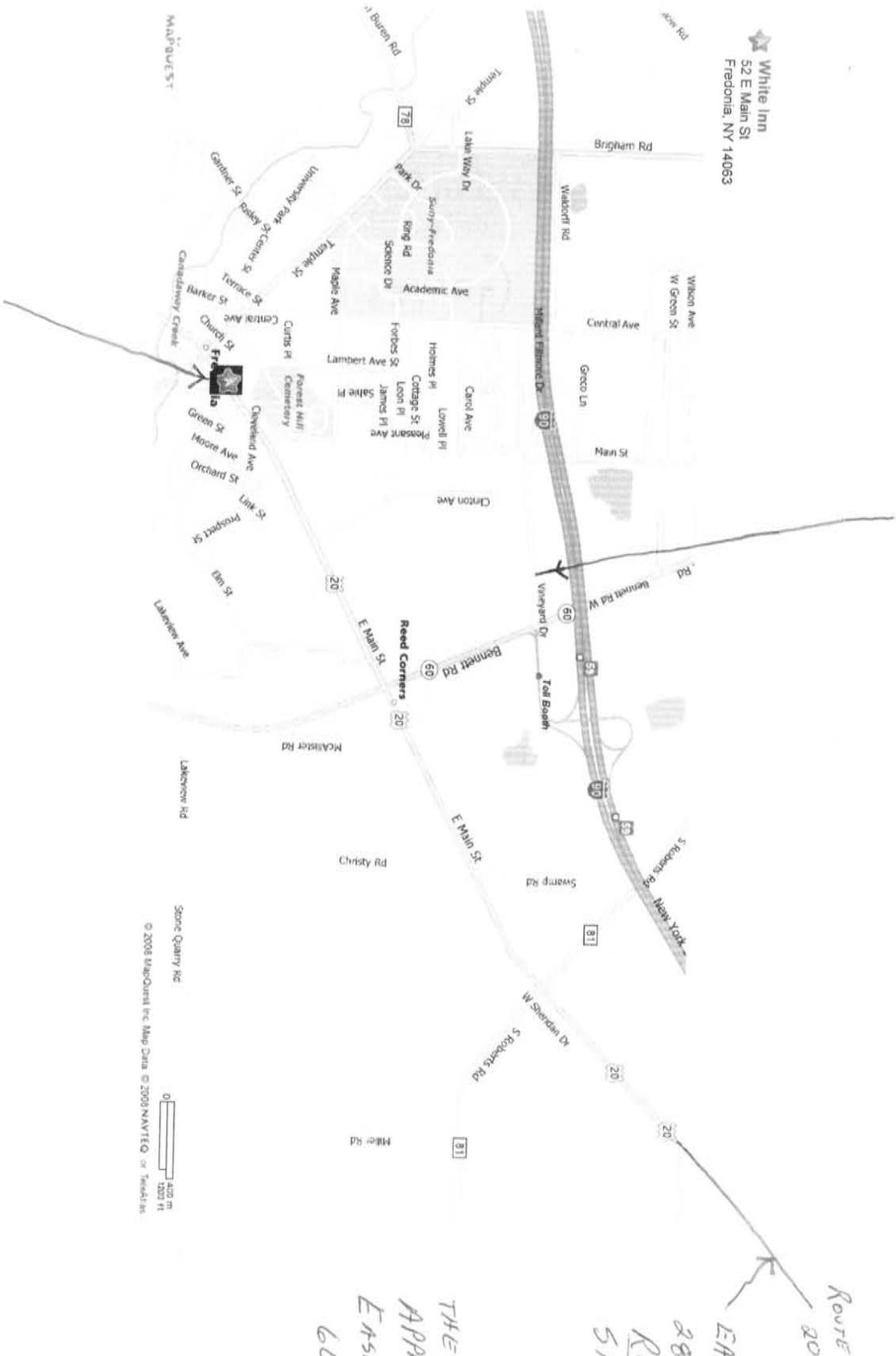
_____ Dijon Grilled Salmon

_____ Sirloin Filet of Beef



(RECOMMENDED)

BEST WESTERN DUNKIRK + FREDONIA
3912 VINEYARD DRIVE



WHITE INN
53 E MAIN ST } EVENING DINNER
+ SPEAKER

Route 20
EAGLE BAY GARDEN
2892 MAIN RD
ROUTE 20
SHERIDAN, NY
14135
THE GARDENS ARE
APPROX 3 MILES
EAST OF RTs
60 + 20