



RHODE ISLAND WILD PLANT SOCIETY

P.O. Box 414
Exeter, RI 02822
401-789-7497
www.riwps.org
office@riwps.org

PRESS RELEASE FOR SPRING PROGRAMS AND WALKS – May

Upcoming May Programs & Walks

Advance Registration is required for all events.

SPRING WILD FLOWERS ON THE BEN UTTER TRAIL

Exeter

Sat., MAY 16, 2009 ~ 1-3 pm

(Weather Date: Sun., May 17)

Leader: DOUG McGRADY

This scenic trail is a wonderful spot for seeing a variety of woodland wild flowers. May is a great time to go because many of the plants bloom before the leaves come out. Along the river there are rich, moist areas with Marsh Marigolds, Anemones, Bellworts, Dwarf Ginseng and Canada Mayflower. We will detour to a rocky, upland Sugar Maple forest, where the soils are richer and less acidic, not typical for Rhode Island. There we will see some unusual ferns, including Maidenhair and Rattlesnake, along with some uncommon Violets and Bellworts. Moderate walk.

Fee: \$5.00 (Members) \$7.00 Nonmembers)

LATE SPRING BLOOMS AT TRUSTOM POND NWR (co-listed with USFWS)

South Kingstown

Sat., MAY 23, 2009 ~ 1-3 pm

(Weather Date: Sun., May 24)

Leaders: DAVE & NANCY CLAYTON, USFWS Volunteer Naturalists

Join experienced naturalists Dave and Nancy in searching for wild flowers in bloom, such as Wood Betony and maybe, if we are lucky, a species of "Concern", the *Arethusa bulbosa*. Easy walk.

Fee: \$5.00 (Members) \$7.00 Nonmembers)

TWO RHODODENDRON GARDENS IN SOUTH COUNTY

Sun., MAY 24, 2009

Two fine gardens are available for you to visit. Each has many rhododendrons and some azaleas, and the visit is timed for the peak of rhododendron blooming season. Both gardens have many other plants in addition, and you will see native plants and other perennials in both of them. The Johnsons' garden is large and contains many mature rhododendrons plus specimen trees, handsome Climbing Hydrangeas, and a variety of other plants as companions. Dorothy Swift's garden is small and contains a number of rhododendrons that ought to be in bloom. In addition, she has many other plants to enjoy, including trillium, shooting star, primroses, Asian jacks, lewisias, Virginia bluebells, bloodroot, tree peonies, numerous native plants in small numbers and lateblooming bulbs. The garden of Bill and Kay Johnson in South Kingstown will be open from 10 a.m. to 2 p. m. Dorothy Swift's garden in North Kingstown will be open from 11 a.m. to 3 p. m. You are welcome to bring your bag lunch and beverage and enjoy it on Dorothy's patio.

Fee: \$5.00 (Members) \$7.00 Nonmembers)

Gleaner Gardens Opening to Benefit RIWPS

North Scituate, RI

Memorial Day Weekend

Gleaner Gardens, in conjunction with the Rhode Island Wild Plant Society, is pleased to invite you to its tenth annual Open Gardens at Gleaner Gardens in North Scituate. Come see the gardens that have been featured in several local and national magazines, with over 300 Rhododendrons and Azaleas in bloom and over 100 varieties. Stroll the garden and woodland paths and see the restoration in progress of these 50-year-old gardens!

A \$2 donation per person to benefit the Rhode Island Wild Plant Society is being requested. The gardens will be open Saturday, May 23 through Monday, May 25, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at 299 Gleaner Chapel Road, North Scituate. Contact Cindy and Chuck at **(401) 934-9212** or **gleanergardens@cox.net** for info.