

# Dune Rose®



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NEWSLETTER OF THE SOUTHAMPTON ROSE SOCIETY—AN AMERICAN ROSE SOCIETY AFFILIATE

## Meet the Leader for Our Two Terrific Pre-Show Workshops

**ANNE HALPIN WHITE**

**O**ur annual Rose Show is almost here. To help us all get ready, our program chairs, Carol Kroupa and Liz Kearns, have lined up a superb leader for two pre-show workshops on Competitive Rose Arranging (May 31) and Showing Award Winning Roses (June 7). She is Lillian Walsh, ARS National Chair of Arrangement Judges. An ARS member for nearly 30 years, Lillian has been a Rose Horticultural Judge and an Arrangement Judge since 1991, and a Consulting Rosarian since 1996. She has received ARS Awards for Excellence in all three categories from the New York State District of the ARS. Lillian has judged roses all over the world, including this year's ARS National Convention in San Diego in early May. In 2015 she'll travel to Lyon, France for the 2015 International Rose Convention. And for two Saturdays we will have her here in Southampton!

Lillian's rose journey began in a rented house in Schenectady, where creating a vegetable garden for her kids helped resuscitate a neglected rosebush nearby. It delighted her young family with yellow flowers.

As time went on she met other people in Schenectady who were avid rose growers. "And you know," she remarked, "when you get involved with active people, you get more active, too." So Lillian planted more roses. Eventually she had 200 plants. These days she has begun to cut back to a mere 180 plants now. Over the years the Schenectady Rose Society became the Capital Region Rose Society, and today it's the only one between Long Island and Syracuse—it's a big territory.

In recent years Lillian has gotten involved with Polyanthas "like The Fairy," she explained, and there are many more types and varieties. Everyone loves The Fairy—it grows well here on Long Island and is a big favorite with landscapers because it's adaptable and tough, and it blooms all the summer into fall. But there are many Polyanthas. Lillian's favorite is Klein Eva, which she describes as medium pink that's deeper pink and more developed than The Fairy.

If you grow Polyanthas and want to enter your favorite in a show, Lillian advises being sure of its classification: "Don't confuse a Polyantha with a Miniature," she warns.

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The Southampton Rose Society, established in 1976, is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization affiliated with the American Rose Society.

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# Competitive Rose Arranging

ANNE HALPIN WHITE

**G**rowing roses is a great joy in and of itself. But roses are superlative cut flowers, and bringing them indoors in vases and bowls, by themselves or with other flowers, lets you bring their lush colors, elegant forms and intoxicating fragrance into your home. It's hard to deny the pleasure of a pitcher full of freshly cut roses from your garden. And sometimes that's all you want. But learning the techniques of arranging roses will enable you to turn your homegrown flowers into a work of art.

Arranging roses is great fun . . . at least it should be. Arranging opens an avenue for unleashing your creativity. Entering the Competitive Arranging Class in our show offers a chance to express your artistic side alongside that of other members. It's a way to explore what your roses can do. Don't be intimidated—arranging is a fun way to challenge yourself and expand your appreciation of the flowers you grow and love so much.

In competitive arranging you don't have to begin with a daunting blank slate. Instead, as Lillian will teach you, you will choose among three types of arrangements recognized in ARS show guidelines.

## TRADITIONAL ARRANGEMENTS SUBDIVIDE INTO THREE CATEGORIES:

1. Line arrangements have only 3 to 5 blooms, and the emphasis is entirely on the individual roses.
2. Line/Mass arrangements comprise roses with some baby's breath or other filler added.
3. Mass arrangements can be big and full, with roses and other materials, as you might find in a florist arrangement.

Modern arrangements are sparse, with the flowers set at angles to one another, so the viewer's eye follows the lines of the flowers to move through the design. Modern arrangements may resemble Asian styles, but they are simple, and space is an important component of the design.

Oriental (in the Oriental manner) arrangements are a more rigorous style, based in philosophical expression rooted in nature and, explained Lillian, "a whole different training is required to learn the art of Oriental flower design."

## WHAT DO ARRANGEMENT JUDGES LOOK FOR?

Here's what Lillian looks for when judging rose arrangements:

First, roses must be predominant in the design. "Then," she says, "I see proportion, the condition of the roses, the dominance of roses, and the rhythm (the way your eye moves through the exhibit)—the eye should travel." There are usually more than one judge at a show, she says, because "no one can see everything."



Everybody starts with 100 points for their exhibit, and points are subtracted for elements the judges find lacking in any of a number of ways. To win a blue ribbon, said Lillian, an entry must score 90 points or better.

### TIPS FOR COMPETITIVE ARRANGERS

If you're going to show an arrangement, Lillian suggests making it at home and transporting it in a milk crate or box. Florists use milk crates, too—they're easy to carry, and you can pack towels or bubble plastic around the vase to stabilize it during transport.

Lillian's Competitive Arranging workshop on May 31 will demonstrate all these points. Plus, she promises, "Everybody will get a score sheet to take home." So attend this workshop and gain the confidence to unleash your creative spirit and enter an arrangement in our show! 🌹

*Left to right:*  
line arrangement,  
modern arrangement, and  
line/mass arrangement.  
Photos courtesy of Curtis  
Aumiller.

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### Meet the Leader for Our Two Terrific Pre-Show Workshops, *continued from first page*

Exhibitors often mistakenly show a small Polyantha in the Miniature class, where it will be disqualified. Check a reliable reference to be sure before entering your rose in the show.

After the harsh winter we've all endured, Lillian offers a ray of hope for our plants. She feels we may not have lost as many roses as we fear we have. Her recommendation: don't give up on your roses too soon. And wait an extra week before you fertilize—the soil temperature must reach 50 degrees F for the fertilizer to be effective.

At show time, pick your favorites. "Everybody has their likes and dislikes, and that's what makes it [showing] a game. And it is a game," she says. Showing roses is fun, challenging, stimulating. And her workshops May 31 and June 7 will get you ready to show your best roses.

Lillian will have handouts for workshop participants, with lots of information. And, she says, "I expect lots of questions!"

So take advantage of the wealth of knowledge this top judge is ready to share 🌹

# Showing Award Winning Roses

ANNE HALPIN WHITE

If showcasing prime specimens from your garden is your goal, you need to attend Lillian Walsh's June 7 workshop on Showing Award Winning Roses. Whether you're a newly impassioned rose lover or a veteran exhibitor, you'll be sure to glean some helpful tips. Here's some advice from Lillian to get you started (you'll learn lots more at her workshop!).

Go out to your garden the morning of the show (get up early!) or the day before with a bucket of water (warm as a baby's bath, she advises—test it by dipping your elbow in it).

Cut each rose with a straight stem at least 16 inches long. Make sure the foliage looks good as well as the flowers (she will give more details at the workshop).

Place the roses in 6 to 8 inches of that mildly warm water and put the bucket indoors in a cool, dark place. Lillian doesn't add anything to the water, nor does she refrigerate the roses overnight. "If you're going to refrigerate," she said, the temperature "must be kept at 38 to 40 degrees F and the refrigerator must contain nothing but roses."

Place the roses in a tall container (not necessarily a bucket—Lillian uses a tall Tupperware container, or large bottles, or half-gallon milk jugs with the top cut off. Cardboard milk cartons also work).

If you are showing a horticultural specimen, don't cut it to the correct length until you take it to the show.

Do NOT spray your specimen, or arrangement, with water. Water droplets can leave spots behind when they dry—that loses you points. If you are entering an arrangement, the spots are counted on EACH rose—those points add up.

Clean the leaves with your hands (gently!) or a soft cloth. Some people use a foam makeup sponge. Don't use leaf polish or shining products. Do the cleaning at home, before you go to the show.

For an arrangement, have a backdrop and underlayment to define the space in which your arrangement rests. Lillian uses a piece of insulation foam covered with fabric behind and underneath her arrangement. 🌹



'Gemini' by Tom Mayhew, courtesy of ars.com

## SOME GOOD ROSES TO SHOW

*Here are some of Lillian's favorite roses for showing:*

**GEMINI.** It is gorgeous, and a good rose to grow; it does well in this part of the world.

**POPE JOHN PAUL II.** "I had some that were dry-wrapped in the refrigerator for 3 weeks, took them halfway across the state, recut them and put them in warm water . . . and took home 3 blue ribbons!"

**DUBLIN BAY:** a red climber, has looser blooms but they hold well in a show. It's a beautiful red rose.

Miniatures and minifloras: she likes **FLAWLESS**, an apricot-pink miniflora. She finds minifloras easier to work with in a midsize design—they're neither miniatures nor full-size hybrid teas.

**DAVID AUSTINS**, she says, are big and fragrant, and reasonably sturdy.

## My Favorite Rose

*This month SRS President Emeritus Harvey Feinstein shares his favorite rose with us. Next month? Anyone willing to share their favorite rose is invited to contact Anne at [ahalpinwhite@yahoo.com](mailto:ahalpinwhite@yahoo.com), or 631-834-5460. This feature was suggested by members last year, so please share your favorite with all of us!*

Since moving to Peconic Landing in Greenport in 2001, I started a small rose garden at my cottage, which is on a 60-foot cliff overlooking Long Island Sound. I also created a larger rose garden for my resident friends. That garden is on a half-acre in what was unused space. It's no competition for the SRS garden in Southampton, but we do quite well with 35 rose bushes. One of my neighbors moved away some time ago and I incorporated two of her rose bushes into our community garden.

I am happy to report that my favorite rose has won three blue ribbons and First Prizes over time, for Best in Show, Best Grandiflora, and Most Fragrant. If it doesn't rain the night before the 2014 show I will exhibit it again. The rose is called Earth Song.

Bred by Dr. Griffith Buck in 1975, Earth Song is listed as a Grandiflora, Hybrid Tea. Its color is deep pink, and it is strongly fragrant, with 25 to 30 petals and long, pointed buds. In my garden it grows to over 4 feet high with a 4-foot spread, and does not attract mildew or fungus. If properly cared for it blooms in flushes from June through Thanksgiving. That makes it my favorite of all the roses I grow. 🌹

'Earth Song' courtesy of Iowa State University Research Foundation



# Rose Care Calendar

## HARVEY'S ROSE CARE CALENDAR

SRS President Emeritus Harvey Feinstein has shared his rose care calendar with us again in this issue. Here are his tips for spring.

**APRIL/MAY.** Prepare to fertilize your roses. Any good organic fertilizer like *ROSE TONE* will get your roses growing again. I also use man-made fertilizers like 10-10-10, or 20-20-20, but they only last about 3 months and you will need to apply them again later in the season. I like *FISH EMULSION*, diluted at 1 tablespoon per gallon of water for each bush. I also apply a good handful of *EPSOM SALTS* per bush for sturdier canes, greener leaves and colorful flowers. Finger-prune any leaves or buds that have appeared growing inward toward the center of the bush. You want outward facing canes so the developing roses have plenty of fresh air circulating around them. Inward facing roses will get diseased.

**MAY/JUNE.** By now you should have started a watering program and are thinking of adding dehydrated horse manure and a good mulch to keep the soil from drying out. Also get prepared for a deer invasion by spraying twice a month with Liquid Fence, diluted at 8 ounces per gallon of water if you are using the concentrate. Keep finger pruning and prepare for the June Rose Show by attending the SRS Workshops on Competitive Rose Arranging and Showing Award Winning Roses. Good luck and Happy Gardening!

## ORGANIC ALTERNATIVES

Here are some tips for organic rose gardeners from Sarah Owens, Brooklyn Botanic Garden's rose curator.

### MAY

- Fertilize with Rose Tone according to directions for established plants given on the package. Lightly scratch fertilizer into soil surface.
- Add 1 inch of composted manure, 1 inch of compost.
- Add 1 to 2 inches of semi-composted mulch on top of soil.
- When temperatures reach above 47 degrees F, apply a 2 percent saturation of Neem product

### JUNE

- Fertilize once with Rose Tone
- Apply a 2 percent solution of Neem is temperatures are not above 85 degrees F. It's best to apply Neem when the weather is cloudy but not rainy.

Weed and irrigate the garden as necessary.



# Events Calendar

## **SOUTHAMPTON ROSE SOCIETY EVENTS**

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**Saturday, May 31, 10 AM**

### **Competitive Rose Arranging**

Guest speaker: Lillian Walsh  
Graciously hosted by Christl Meszkat  
150 Halsey Neck Lane, Southampton

**Saturday, June 7, 10 AM**

### **Showing Award-Winning Roses**

Guest speaker: Lillian Walsh  
Graciously hosted by Jim Berkrot & Michael Staples  
44 Hill Top Road, Southampton

**Saturday, June 14, 7 AM for Members,  
Open to the public at 1 PM**

### **38th Annual SRS Rose Show/Competition**

Location: Rogers Memorial Library, Morris Room  
Roses must be placed between 7 and 10 am to qualify

**Saturday, July 26, 6 PM**

### **Cocktail Party and Auction Fundraiser**

Graciously hosted by Anthony Roncalli and Eric von Kuersteiner  
176 Halsey Neck Lane, Southampton

**Sunday, September 7, 4 PM**

### **Members' Annual Garden Party and Photo Competition**

Graciously hosted by Carole Guest  
358 Wickapogue Road, Southampton

**Saturday, September 13, 10:30 AM**

### **Roses at Bridge Gardens**

Guest speaker: Rick Bogusch  
Location: Bridge Gardens, 36 Mitchell Lane,  
Bridgehampton

**Friday, September 26, 6:30 PM**

### **Annual Members Meeting**

Location: Home of Miriam Goldberg  
15 Halsey Avenue. Southampton

**Saturday, September 27, 12:30 PM**

### **SRS Annual Luncheon and Lecture**

Guest Speaker: Fabien Ducher  
Location: The Meadow Club, Southampton  
Price: \$80 per person

**Saturday, October 18, 10:30 AM**

### **Preparing Your Garden for Winter**

Guest Speaker: Peter Bertrand  
Location: SRS Garden at Rogers Memorial Library

## **HORTICULTURAL ALLIANCE OF THE HAMPTONS EVENTS**

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**Friday, May 16 and Saturday, May 17**

### **Annual HAH Benefit Preview Party and Garden Fair**

Location: Bridgehampton Historical Society grounds

**Sunday, June 8, 2 PM.**

### **Rosemary Verey: The Life Lessons of a Legendary Gardener**

Speaker: Barbara Paul Robinson  
Location: Bridgehampton Community House

## **NEW YORK DISTRICT ARS EVENTS**

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**August 22–24**

### **2014 District Rose Show and Convention**

Location: Craftsman Inn and Conference Center,  
Fayetteville, NY

For information: Ann/Joe Gibson (315)682-9688,  
ambushe@yahoo.com

***Event of note at the convention:***

**Friday, August 22**

### **Consulting Rosarian School**

For information: ARS website, NY District Website, or  
Consulting Rosarian Chair Louis Arce (LouisArce101@  
msn.com)

## **ARS NATIONAL EVENTS**

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**May 9–12**

### **2014 ARS National Convention and Rose Show**

Hosted by San Diego Rose Society  
Location: Town & Country Resort Hotel  
For information: Paula Taylor (858-485-7429),  
arosefamilyholidayinfor@gmail.com

Southampton Rose Society  
P.O. Box 1022  
Southampton, NY 11969-1022



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With Lillian Walsh; home of Christl Meszkat

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Home of Anthony Roncalli &  
Eric von Kuersteiner

Folly Fields Garden

