



# DUNE ROSE

Newsletter of the Southampton Rose Society,  
An American Rose Society Affiliate

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

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## THE JOURNEY TO PASSIONATE GARDENING



by Adeline Christie, SRS President Emeritus 2006-2007

In 1883, General Edwin A. McAlpin, owner of the Hotel McAlpin on West 34<sup>th</sup> Street and Broadway in New York City – considered at the time to be the largest hotel in the world – purchased “Hillside,” a six acre estate in Westchester County, NY. The NY TIMES reported it to be “one of the show places of the Hudson River section.” “Hillside House” had a clear, panoramic view of the River and the purple Palisades beyond. The estate was comprised of the manor house, large stables, a greenhouse, magnificent gardens along with three smaller homes nearby, built by McAlpin to house his staff – the footmen, the cook and the maids. They were designed in the colonial style with pillared entries, gingerbread balconies, local quarried stone foundations and fireplaces in each bedroom, kitchen and parlor as there was no central heating at the time. The houses sat on their own respective plot of land, which was tilled and planted with flowers, herbs and vegetables, providing bountiful food for the table and medicinal needs.

When my father returned home after the end of World War II, my parents purchased one of these houses to accommodate their growing family. Although the property had long been neglected and was overgrown with brambles, and bittersweet, it shared the same magnificent view of the River. My mother, who never shied away from a challenge, quickly set out to create a Victorian garden much like the one that existed more than half a century ago. She imagined a mixed border brimming with old garden roses, perennials and herbs, surrounding a lawn and a small vegetable patch.

The land was cleared with the exception of the last vestige of its prior incarnation – a stacked stone wall that scaled a rock premonitory at the rear of the property, a small rhubarb patch and a lonely rose bush that survived the test of time. The soil of the area was heavy clay mixed with bits of granite and stone and needed to be amended with topsoil, sand and compost. Once the soil had settled, companion planting began with roses interplanted with perennials, annuals and herbs. The “old roses” from earlier times were chosen for their shape, form, fragrance and colors, which were

(Continued on page 4)

## SAVE THE DAY

- |                |  |
|----------------|--|
| <b>MAY 9</b>   | <b>MEMBERS' BREAKFAST FORUM – 9:30 – 11:30 AM</b><br><b>75 MAIN, SOUTHAMPTON</b>                           |
| <b>MAY 23</b>  | <b>CHILDREN'S EDUCATION PROGRAM - 10:30 AM – NOON</b><br><b>SRS ROSE GARDEN – REGISTER AT THE LIBRARY!</b> |
| <b>JUNE 19</b> | <b>MEMBERS' GARDEN TOUR – WE HAVE TERRIFIC GARDENS</b><br><b>A MUST SEE! MORE INFO COMING IN JUNE.</b>     |
| <b>JUNE 20</b> | <b>SRS ROSE SHOW</b>   |

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### Co-Editors:

**Lorraine & Bob Weitsen**

Photos courtesy of:

**Diane Vahradian**

### Contributing Editors:

This issue features:

**Adeline Christie**

In every Issue:

**Carol Kroupa**

**Rosalinda Morgan**

## PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Dear SRS Members:

This is a very exciting time of the year for everyone but especially for Rosarians. This year's plans are in place. We began with our annual Pruning/Rose Care session at the SRS Garden located at the Roger's Memorial Library on Saturday, April 18, 2009. As always Peter Bertrand, along with Johnette de Frietas led the cutting and pruning demonstrations. Joanne McEvoy-Sanborn and Bob Weitsen demonstrated the proper technique for planting a rose bush. Light refreshments were served at an informal gathering in Cooper Hall after the session. This was a fun time as we had the opportunity to visit with many of our members who had been away for the winter. This event was open to the community and was a wonderful way to begin our year.

Much gratitude is given to Nancy Rollins as she completed our 2009 "Green Book" membership directory. This is a great resource which provides the names, telephone numbers and Email addresses of our members. It is a wonderful tool to facilitate SRS communications. I would like to extend a warm, rosy welcome to our new member, Brian Campbell and Toni Curto and Dency Kane ...

As usual, we have two wonderful programs planned for May. Our annual members' Breakfast Forum is set for Saturday, May 9th and the Children's Educational Program sponsored by Dermot Dolan (State Farm Agency) on Saturday, May 23rd. The Breakfast Forum is provided at no cost to SRS members. This year our featured guest speaker will be Peter Kukielski, Curator of the New York Botanical Gardens. This will be our third year for the SRS Children's Educational Program in the SRS

Garden at the Rogers Memorial Library. We have limited space for 50 children, aged 5-10. At the end of the session a mini-rose plant will be given to each child along with a lovely booklet entitled "How to Plant a Mini-Rose Garden" written by Adeline Christie, SRS President Emeritus 2006, 2007. As space is limited, please register your children/grandchildren, nieces/nephews as early as possible at the library!

Our expanded web site continues to provide updated information to assist in the care of our rose gardens. Valuable information continues to grow and is a quick and easy reference source. There is timely information to assist in the care of your rose garden. There are also links to the American Rose Society and rose nurseries around the country. Adeline Christie is dedicated to continuing the Web site for SRS.

In order for our society to continue to prosper we need each member to participate and support our activities. Please make an effort to attend as many programs as possible. Remember to check the list of activities on the calendar on the cover of each Dune Rose. I am personally looking forward to meeting and greeting new members as well as long standing SRS friends.

Love to all who love roses,



Carol Kroupa, President



## A MOMENT IN SRS HISTORY

*by Lorraine A. Weitsen*

Harvey Feinstein recalls being recruited as secretary by then president, Nancy Stone. She advised him that he might want to bring back the Society's Newsletter. The Dune Rose apparently had been out of circulation for about 4 years. As Harvey couldn't type (pre word processors), he wrote the Newsletter in long hand and then had his secretary type it. With a little cutting and pasting, he also designed a

new logo. Harvey added hand drawn cartoons, and added magazine articles about the care of roses. It met with instant success and the membership began to expand.

The club was much simpler in those days. There were about 42 members, made up mostly of people who had begun the club in 1976. (My have we grown!) The president called members on the telephone to announce meetings. There weren't any answering machines so repeated calls had to be made. Harvey decided to send postcards to make his life a bit easier.



## READY, GET SET, GROW! A START-UP GUIDE

### *Things to Do in the Garden in the Spring!*

by Rosalinda Morgan, President Emeritus of LI Rose Society,  
2006 ARS Outstanding Consulting Rosarian, 2008 ARS Silver Honor Medal and Author

Spring is here! With the warm weather come the spring flowers painting the landscape with glorious colors. Birds start chirping again in the backyards and then our gardening tasks began in full force.

#### PRUNING

Now that the forsythia is blooming, the daunting chore of pruning is at hand. Here is a quick primer on pruning to get you into gear for the season:

You need a good bypass pruner. Make sure it is clean and sharp. Most rosarians prefer Felco 2 or 6.

- ♦ Remember to cut till you see healthy pith in the center of the cane. Cut out all diseased, damaged and dead wood, down to the white pith. If you see brown, cut further down.
- ♦ Cut all very thin stems, smaller than a pencil and any canes crisscrossing each other. Try to keep the center open for air circulation. Remove all suckers.
- ♦ For canes that are too big, use a pruning saw.
- ♦ Cut diagonally about ¼ inch to an open space, not necessarily from the outward facing bud. If left longer, the cane will die back and if closer the new growth may break off.
- ♦ Remove all blind shoots. These are stems that taper down to almost nothing.
- ♦ Remove short growths that are only a few inches long that have hardened off and taper down to a point. They will not flower.
- ♦ Seal all cuts with Elmer's Glue.
- ♦ To get bigger blooms, cut low except for *Queen Elizabeth*.
- ♦ Remove all leaves and clean the garden of old, diseased leaves. They are the depository of blackspot spores and mildew.
- ♦ Get rid of all the cuttings into the trash bin. Do not put them in the compost pile.

#### SPRAYING

After you have done completed pruning, start your spray program. It is better to prevent insects and diseases with preventive measures. Start now with dormant oil. Do this weekly for four consecutive weeks. Then follow that with Messenger. Our area is black spot country so we have to control it. I find Messenger is a great way to control black spot. If you have not used Messenger before, I urge you to try it. You'll see a big difference in your roses and all plants for that matter. You can get these pesticides at local nurseries. If you are not averse to chemical spraying, you can use Banner Max with Compass or Manzate. You can buy them at [www.rosemania.com](http://www.rosemania.com). Make sure you read the label and follow instructions and use protective gear. Keep a wall calendar on the shelf with the chemicals indicating when and which sprays you have used. Only use insecticide when you see the insects. Aphids can be controlled by a powerful spray of water. Another alternative is the use of ladybugs to patrol your garden. For Japanese beetles, I control them by killing the grubs on my lawn. I use beneficial nematodes from [www.GardensAlive.com](http://www.GardensAlive.com). I have not seen Japanese Beetles for the last three years. It comes in a sponge with 10 millions of nematodes. I never count them. You soak them in water and spray on the lawn, once in spring and then again in the fall.

#### FERTILIZING

Roses are heavy feeders. I like to use a good organic fertilizer like Mills Magic Rose Mix for my first feeding, followed by a general "once a season" fertilizer like Osmocote or Bloomcote the following week, then SuperPhosphate. Water before and after fertilizer application to prevent root burn. After the first flush, I give my roses another feeding of Mills Magic Rose Mix. I also use lots of compost. Liquid fertilizer like Miracle Gro can be used throughout the season to give an extra boost. May your pruning and fertilizing yield beautiful plants, free from insects and disease!





## The Journey to Passionate Gardening

(continued)

more muted than the modern hybrid teas. Damasks, bourbons, albas, gallicas and hybrid perpetuals were ordered from catalogues. Some of the roses that were favorites and included in the scheme were:

DAMASKS: “Mme. Hardy” (white); “Ispahan”(pink); “LaVille des Bruxelles”(pink)

BOURBONS: “La Reine Victoria”(lilac pink); “Louise Odier”(rose-pink); “Mme. Pierre Oger”(silvery-pink)

ALBAS: “Felicite Parmentier” (soft pink);” White Rose of York”; “Maiden’s Blush”(pink)

GALLICAS: “Cardinal de Richelieu”(purple); “Rosa Mundi”(semi-double pink & white)

HYBRID PERPETUALS: “Baroness Rothschild”(rose pink); “Frau Karl Druschki” (white)

To complement the colors of the old garden roses, attention was paid to the colors of the perennials and annuals:

Blue: Campanula; Lavender; Nepeta; Salvia

Pink: Bath’s pink; Cosmos; Dianthus; Lamb’s Ear; Monarda

Yellow: Coreopsis; Daylilies

White: Gypsophila; Nicotania; Sweet Alyssium

The garden became a magnet for butterflies, hummingbirds, ladybugs, “praying mantis,” dragonflies and migrating birds. Bees built their honeycombs, and birds nested in the nearby evergreens and bird houses. Each following spring, manure and compost were reapplied to produce a rich and living soil full with live mycorrhizae, and the results were extraordinary. The roses produced thicker canes, larger flowers and were

practically disease-free. The birds and beneficial insects kept the bad insects in check, and perennials grew huge and had to be divided every three years. Out of the cacophony of weeds and brambles grew a garden in perfect harmony with nature.

Many years later, the rudiments of gardening my mother taught came to mind when planning my own garden in Southampton. However, I was faced with different challenges — virgin woodlands of scrub oak, sandy soil, and a natural deer-grazing trail that runs along the back-side of the property. Some trees were cleared; topsoil was carted in along with manure, compost and leaf mulch, and dug into the soil.

Bordering woodlands presented its own share of problems with voles, moles, deer and wild turkeys occasionally roaming through, eating whatever was on the menu. On one occasion, voles decimated the perennials overnight. Another time they chewed the root systems of a dozen hybrid teas and several established climbers that covered a 10 foot high x 50 foot long fence. It was a heartbreaker, but inheriting my mother’s fortitude, I kept replacing plants every spring.

Roses were planted in the formal style in separate beds — one devoted entirely to David Austin Roses for their fragrance, recurrent bloom and form, reminiscent of the “Old Garden Roses”; another for floribundas, grandifloras and a few old garden roses; and one for hybrid teas. Perennials and herbs were sprinkled throughout the landscape, as they provided tantalizing scents and colors to attract the same beneficial insects and birds that took residence in the garden of my childhood.

I’ve used David Austin Roses to great effect by planting in groups of three of each variety. There are approximately 30 varieties that grow in the garden, which is edged in English Boxwood. But I’ve seen them planted in a mixed border, and they make the perfect

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## HOW TO PLANT A ROSE BUSH

**Things You'll Need:** bucket, shovel, rose bush, organic material (compost, peat moss or manure), sulphur and bone meal.

### Step 1

Select the perfect site for your rose bush. Roses need well-draining soil, plenty of room, good circulation, and prefer at least six hours of sunlight a day in order to flower abundantly.

### Step 2

Roses also prefer a slightly acidic soil. You can test the pH level of your soil with a cheap test sold at most garden centers. You can add sulphur to make the soil more acidic.

### Step 3

Adding organic materials such as compost, manure or peat moss to your rose bed can add nutrients and help retain moisture if your soil is sandy or improve drainage if you have a lot of clay in your soil.

### Step 4

Select the perfect rose bush – one hardy enough to grow in your area. In selecting a bush pay attention to the light and moisture provided by your site.

### Step 5

If you've selected a potted bush, remove it from its container and gently loosen the root-ball. If you've selected a bare-root rose, place it in a bucket of water and soak the roots overnight. Bare-root roses are often inexpensive but slightly more difficult to grow because their root system is not as established as a rose sold in a container.

### Step 6

Inspect the roots. Remove any that are broken or damaged.

### Step 7

Dig a hole that is at twice the depth and width of the root-ball.

### Step 8

Fill the hole with water and let it drain.

### Step 9

Build up a cone-shaped pile of topsoil in the middle of the hole.

### Step 10

Locate the crown or bud union (the bump in the trunk between the branches and roots) of the rose bush. Arrange the roots around the cone, so that the soil holds the crown of the bush at the right depth. In an area with cold, snowy winters, the crown should be 2 to 4 inches below the surface. Or you can plant the crown at or above soil level and mound soil over the crown to protect it.

### Step 11

Fill the hole and lightly pack with a mixture of soil and organic material around the roots.

### Step 12

Prune the bush to remove any damaged branches. You can cut bushes to as small as 6 inches tall, leaving only four or five of the strongest canes.

### Step 13

Water the newly planted rose bush.

### Step 14

Place mulch around the bush to retain moisture and protect the roots. If the crown of your rose bush is planted above the ground, cover it with mulch until after the bush has begun to sprout leaves.







## PRUNING SESSION



*Peter Bertrand demonstrates the art of pruning hybrid tea roses.*



*Mimi Goldberg, Lorraine Weitsen, Nancy Rollins and Bob Weitsen are ready to greet guests.*



*Joanne McEvoy-Samborn demonstrates the proper technique for planting a rose bush.*



## The Journey to Passionate Gardening

(continued)

companion for perennials, as they don't mind sharing their space. (I chose not to use companion planting in my borders, because the beds are quite deep and would make it difficult to maintain the roses.) David Austin, the English hybridizer, who is famous for crossing the modern Hybrid Teas with the Old Garden Roses, produced shrub roses that were multi-petaled with prolific and recurrent blooms, delicious scents and delicate colors. He encourages using some of his shrubs as climbers, such as Golden Celebration and Graham Thomas, but also has promoted using them in the mixed border with breathtaking results.

If you're looking for the real McCoy, when it comes to "antique garden roses," look no further than Peter Beales Roses. Peter has spent an entire lifetime devoted to collecting over 1,300 species of roses, the largest collection in the world. He has reproduced them as well as hybridized his own creations for the rich and famous, including the Royal Family of England. Until recently, they were only available in Europe. It's interesting to note that the old garden roses are having their renaissance, becoming more popular today with rosarians appreciating their uniqueness and history. The good news is Peter has entered into a partnership with Ashdown Roses in the U.S. to market his rare collection and make them available to us here in the U.S. You can order them online through a link on our website's "Reference" page.

Several years ago I began my last garden project to include an English Boxwood parterre garden of my own design. Each rectangle is filled with low maintenance vinca that is a blanket of tiny blue trumpets in May. "Box" is one plant that the deer have an aversion to because of its odor, which is not readily noticeable by humans. Other than trimming twice during the growing season, it is maintenance-free.

Creating a garden is an evolutionary process that takes us on a journey with many turns and surprises around each corner. In today's chaotic world, it's a haven where one can, for a few hours, forget the economy and experience a little bit of the paradise that God had intended.



## GROWING ROSES ORGANICALLY

SRS member LOIS SHEINFELD  
will be lecturing at:

APPLIED ARTS SCHOOL  
11 Indian Wells Highway, Amagansett

The Off Site Location for  
The New York Botanical Garden

Saturday, August 1, 2009  
10:30am – 12:30pm.

For questions or to register:  
call The New York Botanical Garden  
718.817.8747  
online: [nybg.org/edu](http://nybg.org/edu).

SOUTHAMPTON ROSE SOCIETY  
PO Box 1022

SOUTHAMPTON, NY 11969-1022

[WWW.SOUTHAMPTON-ROSE-SOCIETY.ORG](http://WWW.SOUTHAMPTON-ROSE-SOCIETY.ORG)

### OFFICERS

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### ADVISORY BOARD

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Harvey Feinstein	Carole Guest

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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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EDITORS: LORRAINE AND BOB WEITSEN

PUBLICATION DESIGN & LAYOUT: SERRA YAVUZ



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## SRS 2009 PRELIMINARY CALENDAR

- |                     |  |
|---------------------|--|
| MAY 9               | — MEMBERS' BREAKFAST FORUM<br>Guest Speaker Peter Kukielecki<br>Curator, Peggy Rockefeller Rose Garden at<br>The NY Botanical Garden   |
| MAY 23              | — CHILDREN'S EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM<br>Rogers Memorial Library/SRS Rose Garden  |
| JUNE 19<br>(FRIDAY) | — MEMBERS' GARDEN TOUR<br>Southampton, NY  |
| JUNE 20             | — ANNUAL ROSE SHOW<br>Rogers Memorial Library  |
| JUNE 27             | — SRS FUNDRAISER GARDEN TOUR   |
| SEPTEMBER 13        | — SRS ANNUAL GARDEN PARTY &<br>PHOTOGRAPHY COMPETITION AWARDS<br>Home of Ms. Mimi Goldberg   |
| OCTOBER 10          | — ANNUAL MEETING/LECTURE LUNCHEON<br>Guest Speaker Stephen Scanniello<br>Author and Lecturer<br>President of Heritage Rose Foundation<br>Recipient, 2009 Great Rosarian of the World<br>(GROW) Award |