



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



Dear Members;

Spring is on the way as the first crocus peek through the ground. Excitement builds and the promise of beautiful blooms is in the air!

This year the SRS is celebrating its 40th Anniversary. A new logo is being designed to celebrate this milestone. The logo will be used in our documents and publications going forward. Many founding members are still members today and continue to offer a great deal of insight and support to the SRS. Thank you for your continued contribution.

The Dune Rose will now be published in 4 issues each year, Spring, Summer, Fall and Winter. There is an exciting new feature section that will begin with this issue. Entitled "From the Archives," it will contain information from past editions of Dune Rose dating back to the 1970s. Much of the information is relevant today and some of the information is entertaining and looks back into the history of our organization.

Another important change is in our event programming. The Board chose to simplify events this year and in the future. The main focus will be on two major events. The first of them, our Annual Rose Show, will take place on June 11th at the Southampton Arts Center on Jobs Lane. A boutique section will be at the entrance of the Arts Center, creating a fun and lively shopping event. More information will be forthcoming on which vendors will be there.

The second event is the Annual Cocktail Party Fundraiser, which will take place on June 25th in one of our members' beautiful gardens. This event will now be held every year, always on the last Saturday in June, which makes it easy to put on your calendar well in advance. The event includes an always popular silent auction, so if you have items or gift certificates you think would be appropriate to donate, it would be much appreciated. Please e-mail president@southamptonrose.org with a description and value of what you may want to donate. Your donation is tax deductible.

The next big initiative is to focus on increasing our endowment fund by seeking out individuals and organizations willing to make generous contributions. The SRS has 5 gardens to support in Southampton Village, now and in the future. Our gardens enrich our community and create beauty around us in a place

where aesthetic beauty abounds. We need to ensure their continued care.

I invite and encourage your active participation this year. Please bring family and friends to our educational and major events. Help others get involved in meeting people and learning more about roses. Our love of and passion for roses should be enjoyed by all.

Looking forward to seeing everyone at our exciting events this season!

Best regards,

Jim.
Jim Berkrot
President, Southampton
Rose Society

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Pruning & Planting Preview

On Saturday, April 23, Peter Bertrand, expert rosarian and caretaker of all the SRS public gardens in Southampton (along with many private gardens) will lead the annual Pruning and Planting Workshop in the SRS Rose Garden at the Rogers Memorial Library in Southampton (see the Events Calendar on page 7 for details). Peter has been a member of the SRS since 1980, and has been awarded the American Rose Society (ARS) Bronze Award, the Southampton Rose Society (SRS) Outstanding Service Award, President's Trophy and Rosarian of the Year trophy. He knows whereof he speaks. Experienced rose growers will pick up new tips—Peter is a fount of information, and you will undoubtedly learn a technique or glean an insight you didn't know before. For new rose gardeners, this workshop is indispensable. In addition to learning the best methods for pruning and planting roses, Peter will demonstrate the techniques: he will show where to cut the stem and how to angle the pruner blades; he will show how deep to dig the planting hole, and what to put into it to get your new roses off to a great start. Plus, you can ask him questions afterward. It's the best possible way to learn. Whether you are planting your first rose bush or you've been growing roses for 30 years, you won't want to miss the workshop!

Here are a few tidbits from last year's session to whet your appetite:

Peter began by explaining the conditions our roses endured over the past winter. Last winter brought us extreme cold for a long time, the worst conditions we had seen since 1982. The month-plus-long snow cover did help somewhat. Last year, there was lots of dead wood on the hybrid teas in the garden at the library during the winter, but below the snow line the plants were green. The canes looked damaged in March, with black areas, but in April they were better, and the interiors of the canes were green and healthy. Apparently the consistent snow cover afforded protection from the bitter cold and drying winds.

Peter is very consistent with how he prunes, but each year is different. In 2015 mid-April was the perfect time to prune.

The Board of Directors would like to acknowledge the following for their recent generous donations: Helga Dawn, Dr. Michael Weiden, Ann Forward, Judith Sherman, Selma Sherter, Rick Bogusch, Madeline Prevete, Lee Packman, Kathryn Podwall and Ellen Bellett. Thank you!

cont. text from pg. 3

A golden rule that Peter learned from his mentor, David Dawn, a true master rosarian and inspiration to many of our members. (David and Helga's spectacular Southampton rose garden was legendary, and widely published.) The rule: If the bud union is alive, everything above it can be cut. After you cut back the plant, spray, water and feed it and the plant can come back. (That means there can be hope for winter-damaged plants.)

HERE ARE 5 TIPS FROM PETER:

1. If you can, spend extra money for good pruners (*bypass, not anvil type*). They are easier to work with and will last a lot longer, which makes them cheaper in the long run.
2. Let the way your rose grows determine how you prune. Some roses annually put out new canes from the base. You can prune these harder. Some, like the old Tea roses, take time to build up a structure and reach their size. They need a lighter hand.
3. Always start by pruning out dead wood. Why? Because it's dead and you can't make a mistake. It will get you warmed up!
4. Take out weak or damaged growth. Just trust your gardener's instincts to recognize branches that aren't full of vigor. This also better helps you see the plant's structure.
5. Never worry about making a mistake. It'll grow back.

Want to learn more?
Come to the workshop!



Peter Demonstrates proper techniques at last year's workshop.

Photos by Anne Halpin

My Favorite Rose

To kick off My Favorite Rose in this 40th anniversary year, Dune Rose welcomes Christl Meszkat. A longtime member of SRS, and a member of the Advisory Board, Christl is a frequent exhibitor in the SRS Rose Show. In 2015 she had a banner year, winning a host of trophies and ribbons, including King of Show (for Opening Night), Princess of Show (for Sunstruck) and Prince of Show (for Nicole), along with the Peter Haring, Pauline Gerli Sullivan and Mr. & Mrs. Martin Richards trophies, among others.



Christl Meszkat has always loved flowers, and roses in particular. She recalls as a child in Germany riding her bike in the countryside and seeing roses growing on the fences of properties there. They were captivating. “I wanted to pick them all,” she says. Her mother always told Christl that when she was a little girl and went out for a walk she would always come back with flowers. Lots of them. Her mother nearly ran out of vases to put them in.

gardens in the Hamptons. Christl’s breathtaking garden was part of the SRS Garden Tour last year, and those of us who got to see it were dazzled by its splendor.

The garden had its beginnings in the late 1980s when, she says, “I met Helga Dawn” and saw her world famous garden. She asked Helga’s husband,

*...one of the most
spectacular rose gardens
in the Hamptons.*



Just a few of the many trophies and ribbons Christl has won for her roses.

That love of flowers has been with Christl all her life, and it finds expression today in her beautiful rose garden, one of the most spectacular rose

David, a renowned rosarian, to come and look at the fence around the Meszkats’ tennis court. “I asked him, could we have roses on the fence?” she recalls. Yes, he said. So David took soil samples, prepared the soil for planting and ordered Pink Perpetué, a large flowered climber, which still grows on the tennis court fence today. Some of the plants have had to be replaced, and Gertrude Jekyll has been added to the mix, but three of the original plants remain.

Tish Rehill of Gardeneering started the rose garden near the house in the 1990s, and later Johnette de Freitas added more plants. When Peter Bertrand took over the care of the garden it really began to expand until today the garden contains about 300 roses. Peter continues to care for the garden, although Christl helps with the deadheading, an activity she enjoys.

Christl is such a lover of roses that she finds it impossible to choose just one favorite.

“Every rose has something so beautiful,” she says. “I look at this one, then turn around and there’s another, all so lovely.” So she has many favorite roses, and most of them have special memories for her. Pink Perpetué always reminds her of David Dawn. And Whisper (a white hybrid tea) was planted as a gift by Peter Bertrand when the Meszkats’ dog passed away.

Christl’s love of so many roses also makes it difficult for her to choose roses to enter in the annual Rose Show – there are so many choices in her garden. In addition to Pink Perpetué, other favorites include Mr. Lincoln, a classic red hybrid tea (“I’ve had good luck with that one,” she says),

Betty Boop, a floribunda, has lovely pink shades that everyone loves, she says. Memorial Day, a pink hybrid tea, is very fragrant. Sally Holmes, a white shrub rose, grows on the pergola in Christl’s garden, and nearly covers it in summer. On an arch alongside the house, the climber New Dawn (light pink) is joined by Eden (pink shades). The red-flowered climber Blaze, another favorite, scales the house.

Getting Ready for the Show

To prepare for the Rose Show, Christl starts scouting her garden for likely candidates a few days before the show. On Friday afternoon, the day before the show, she begins cutting the roses and placing them in bottles, and begins to groom them. Most of the grooming and cleaning she does the morning of the show, rising at 5:00am. She fills out the entry cards for the best candidates a couple of days before the show. And her hard work pays off. She has an entire wall of framed ribbons she’s won over the years, and has had to plan for additional space...there are many more ribbons waiting for wall space.

It’s easy to see that living with roses is a great joy for Christl. She loves spending time with them in the garden, and filling her home with them all summer long.



FROM THE ARCHIVES

In celebration of the 40th anniversary of the Southampton Rose Society this year, we are going to share bits of SRS history in this special feature in Dune Rose. The material we will share is courtesy of Lois Fowkes, an SRS founding member (and current member), past president and a judge for our 2015 Rose Show. Lois kept an album over the years which she has generously shared, and now in Dune Rose we are able to share excerpts with you. Many thanks to Lois for sharing this window into SRS history!

Guidelines for Fitting a Rose Planting Into Your Yard (from Dune Rose, October circa 1977)

- 1.** Plan your garden in an area where requirements of sun, air circulation, drainage and space are met.
- 2.** Plan your rose beds so that you can enlarge them if you wish. It is better to start with a small garden and increase its size as you like.
- 3.** Be practical about the size of rose beds. They should be no wider than you can reach across comfortably for cutting blooms and pruning the bushes. Beds that are accessible from both sides can be as wide as six feet. Beds should be so located as to be reachable with your garden hose.
- 4.** Don't fight the shape of the yard or the style of the house. A rose garden can be "free form" or formal. Let the planting blend with its surroundings.
- 5.** Try to get the rose garden near the house – either visually or physically. Roses can still be enjoyed during bad weather when they are easily seen from the house.
- 6.** Plan variety locations by growth habit and color to avoid unsightly variations in heights and poor color combinations.
- 7.** Keep taller kinds in the background so they won't hide lower growing ones. This also permits the lower growing kinds to hide any tendency to "legginess" in the taller ones.
- 8.** Try to avoid spottiness in colors by using at least three of a kind together. When so used, each kind has a distinct identity, a longer period of bloom in the garden, and contributes to a better overall look.
- 9.** In large gardens or where the garden is intended for view from a distance, keep roses of the same hue near each other for bold patches of color.
- 10.** Don't overlook the use of tree roses and climbing roses trained on poles or trellises to put height and special interest into your planting.
- 11.** Miniature roses, which are as hardy as their full size counterparts, are excellent for edging a rose planting or for use in small areas.
- 12.** Roses can also be used in these special ways on your property:
 - a. A climber can be trained on a wall.
 - b. A bank can be covered with creeping roses to end erosion and mowing problems while adding beauty.
 - c. Unpleasant views or structures can be hidden by roses – for instance a cyclone fence or a tool shed can be covered by climbing roses.
 - d. Roses can be used as a fence; climbers will cover a tall fence, hedge type roses or floribundas planted in a line will create a colorful but impenetrable barrier.
 - e. Dangerous spots like sudden changes in grade can be made safe by using roses; for example, a terrace which is higher than the surrounding lawn can be edged in roses for safety. A rose bush or a rose planting seen from the top warns of an approaching grade drop.
- 13. PLAN BEFORE YOU PLANT.**

Try out different designs on paper first – it is easier to erase than transplant.
- 14.** No one knows you, your property, and your gardening interests better than you do. Be your own designer and discover how interesting this facet of gardening is.

2016EVENTS

SRS Events

Saturday, April 23, 10AM

Pruning & Planting Workshop

Guest Speaker: Peter Bertrand

Location: SRS Rose Garden at Rogers Memorial Library
91 Coopers Farm Road, Southampton, NY 11968

Friday, May 6, 4 PM

Children's Mini Rose and Art Program

Location: Morris Room, Rogers Memorial Library
91 Coopers Farm Road, Southampton, NY 11968

Saturday, June 11, 7:30 AM-4PM

40th Annual Rose Show

Location: Southampton Arts Center
25 Jobs Lane, Southampton, NY 11968

Saturday, June 25, 6 - 8 PM

Cocktail Party Fundraiser: Roses & Rosé

Location: to be determined
Southampton, NY 11968

Monday, July 4, 10 AM

Southampton Fourth of July Parade

Sunday, September 11 (*rain date Sept. 18*), 4 PM

Annual Members Garden Party

Location: to be determined
Southampton, NY 11968

Saturday, September 24, 11 AM

Annual Members Meeting

Location: The Meadow Club
555 First Neck Lane, Southampton, NY 11968

Saturday, September 24, 12 PM,

Annual Luncheon/Lecture

Guest Speaker: to be determined
Location: The Meadow Club

Horticultural Alliance of the Hamptons (HAH) Monthly Lectures

The HAH lectures take place on Sunday afternoons at 2pm in the Bridgehampton Community Center on Montauk Highway in Bridgehampton

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|---------------------|---|
| March 13 | Ernest Cavallo, <i>Galanthophilia, A Good Kind of Love</i> |
| May 1 | Michael Wojtech, <i>Bark: Get To Know Your Trees</i> |
| June 12 | Stephen Orr, <i>The New American Herbal</i> |
| September 11 | Scott Howe, <i>Geology, Natural History and the Art: The Parrish Museum's Landscape</i> |
| October 16 | Marta McDowell, <i>All the Presidents' Gardens</i> |
| November 13 | Bruce Crawford, <i>Small Trees for the Home Landscape</i> |
| December 11 | Dennis Schrader, <i>Tropical Immersion: The Costa Rica Garden Designed by Dennis Schrader</i> |

American Rose Society (ARS) Events

April 1-3 Yankee District Convention

Rhode Island Rose Society

Location: Mainstay Hotel and Conference Center
Newport, RI

Information: Cindy & Erwin Ehrenreich, (508)362-9296/
theroseman@operamail.com

June 17-18 Great Rosarians of the World Lecture Series,
East, Manhattan Rose Society

Location: Queens Botanical Garden

Information: Pat Shanley (516)4458-9148/pshanley@aol.com

Long Island Rose Society Events

The Long Island Rose Society holds monthly meetings on the second Friday of each month at 7:00pm from March to December. Meetings are held at the Plainview/Old Bethpage Public Library, 999 Old Country Road, Plainview. The annual Rose Show takes place in June at the Planting Fields Arboretum. For information visit longislandroses.org.