President’s Letter

Dear Members,

Happy Spring! Our lawns are turning green after a cold and dark Winter, spring flowers will soon be in bloom and our roses are growing in anticipation of our 42nd annual Rose Show in June. Our annual Pruning and Planting session with Peter Bertrand is scheduled for Saturday, April 21st in our main garden at the Rogers Memorial Library at 10 am. If you have never attended this most valuable workshop, or even if you go every year, you will certainly learn something new. Peter has been caring for some of the best rose gardens in the Hamptons…and possibly on the planet…for years. His insights gathered from all that hands-on experience is invaluable. Each year I learn something new and so will you! Our next event will be the popular Children’s Mini Rose and Art Program on May 11th at the library, also led by Peter Bertrand.

On Saturday, June 16th we will hold our 42nd annual Rose Show at the Rogers Memorial Library. The show takes place in the Morris Room, in the lower level (follow the signs to find it). To prepare for the show, you will find useful info in this issue of Dune Rose. Helga Dawn will also host a Rose Show preparation workshop at her home on Saturday, June 9th. This workshop will be very helpful for novices wanting to exhibit in their first Rose Show!

The Library has been our home for most of our shows, and we greatly appreciate their generosity in allowing us to use the space at no charge. We will be promoting the event to encourage a great turnout, and we need your participation too! Even if you’ve never entered the rose show before, please bring a rose you think would be a good entrant for the show, and give it a try! You will find volunteers to help you the morning of the show at the Library. You can find the rose show rules and guidelines on our website, www.southamptonrose.org. Look under Articles and scroll down until you see Southampton Rose Society Events and you will find the rules for the rose show. The rose show rules were updated this year (thanks to past president Harvey Feinstein for editing!). Additionally, they will be mailed and e-mailed a few weeks prior to the show.

Beginners are very welcome to participate, so please invite your friends and neighbors. The show is free and open to the public in the afternoon, after judging is complete. Please join us in honoring our beautiful national flower, The Rose!

This year we will again participate in the Southampton July 4th parade, with a horse-drawn carriage! Please come see this wonderful community event—a Southampton institution—and celebrate our participation!

continued on page 8
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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Rose Garden Angels

Thank you to our first Rose Garden Angels!

Our sincere thanks to our first Rose Garden Angels:

Past President LOIS FOWKES, who led the way; HAL GOLDBERG, in Memoriam, and LAURA DEVINNEY, with Anonymous.

Our two newest Angels, NANCY STONE and AUDREY GRUSS, have joined this inaugural group. A plaque is being placed in each of our gardens, listing our five angels for the year, in acknowledgment of their generosity.

Rose Garden Angels still needed!

We are looking for Rose Garden Angels to sponsor for a year one or more of the four SRS “off campus” gardens, located at the Southampton Cultural Center, alongside Shippy’s restaurant, next to Town & country Real Estate and at Little Red. Each of those gardens costs an average of approximately $2,500 per year to maintain. We are asking for five Garden Angels to help support these gardens by sponsoring one or more of them for a year. In return, a sign will be placed in each garden to acknowledge the angel who sponsored that garden for the year. Please remember that the Society pays for the upkeep of these beautiful gardens as our gift to the Village of Southampton; we receive no taxpayer dollars or other support to maintain these gardens that beautify our village. The gardens are completely funded by the Southampton Rose Society, an expression of our appreciation of and wish to help maintain the beauty of our historic village.

If you can help in this worthy cause, please email: president@southamptonrose.org.
EXHIBIT YOUR ROSES! If you are a first-timer . . . take a chance on winning some ribbons or even a trophy. If you love gardening as we do, we are happy to welcome you. Entering the annual Rose Show may seem daunting, but members of the SRS will be there to help you. The Southampton Rose Show is open to everyone, including novices and you may exhibit as many, or as few, roses as you like.

It’s important to know the name of your rose and its classification (for example, “hybrid tea,” “grandiflora,” or “shrub rose”). If you know the name of your rose but you don’t know its classification, you may check its category in an American Rose Society Handbook for Selecting Roses, which will be available at the show. If you don’t know the name or classification of your rose, SRS volunteers will also be at the event to help you the morning of the show.

Go to the exhibitor’s preparation area (the Morris Room kitchen downstairs at the Library) to groom your roses and arrange them in bottles. SRS volunteers will be there to help advise. Have your roses tagged with your name, the rose name, etc. Tags are available on the day of the show. If you would like tags in advance, e-mail Diane Vahradian at divah63@yahoo.com. Attach the tag with an elastic band to the neck of the bottle. A Rose Show official will check them and place them on the show tables for you….and that’s it! It is not uncommon for a novice to win a trophy!!!

- ALL ROSES MUST BE ENTERED AND PLACED and ready for judging by 9:30 AM
- Entrants can come to the Library as early as 7:30 am to prepare your roses for the show
- There will be a Rose Show preparation workshop at the home of Helga Dawn, June 9th

Viewing to the public and exhibitors begins at 1:00 pm. IF YOU WIN A TROPHY OR A RIBBON, please plan to collect your roses and awards promptly at 4:00pm and not before. You are responsible for engraving trophies at your expense if you are a winner. Non-members cannot take the trophy home. If you do not plan to engrave a trophy with your name, then do not take a trophy home. Any ribbons you win are free for all of you to take home. A winner’s trophy must be returned to the SRS no later than May 2019 to be awarded to a new winner in 2019.

- Membership in the SRS is $60, and may be purchased on the day of the show, or online.
- The show is governed by the standard rules, regulations and guidelines of The American Rose Society (ARS).
- All entries are to be grown outdoors by the exhibitor. Only members in good standing of the Southampton Rose Society may take possession of trophies.

GOOD LUCK!
How to Bring Home the Silver

Most of us have experienced walking through our rose garden and seeing a rose that displays all the characteristics of a winner of a silver trophy at the rose show. The only problem is, the rose show is two or three weeks away, and by that time, your potential “Queen” or silver trophy winner is past its peak bloom. Don’t despair. There are a few tricks used by die-hard exhibitors, which I will share with you.

REFRIGERATION TECHNIQUE:

1. Two or three weeks before the rose show, buy a thermometer. Look for an inexpensive battery-operated precision indoor/outdoor thermometer which can be hung inside the refrigerator with the reader adhered to the outside. The important objective is to chill the refrigerator to a constant 35 degrees.
2. All food should be in covered containers, or remove all strong smelling foods, especially apples and fruit, which emit a gas as they ripen and destroy the rose.
3. TURN OFF THE LIGHT INSIDE YOUR REFRIGERATOR.
4. Generally, cut the rose when it is 1/3 open.
5. Submerge the rose to its “neck” in a pail of warm water for three hours.
6. Remove bottom 3 ½” of leaves, but LEAVE AT LEAST TWO–5 LEAFLET LEAVES ON THE STEM
7. Re-cut under water.
8. Label the variety of the rose with a paper strip. Use a ballpoint pen to identify the rose, and staple the strip just under the flower.
9. Use deckle edge or cuticle scissors to trim damaged leaves.
10. Open a file folder and staple the top, and use a rubber band at the bottom to form a “collar.” Put a plastic baggie on top of the collar. EVERY 4 DAYS REPLACE WARM WATER AND RECUT STEMS ONCE A WEEK.

HOW TO GROOM YOUR ROSES ON THE DAY OF THE SHOW:

Materials needed:
Mister, plastic wrap, tweezers, artist’s paintbrush, paper towels, scissors (cuticle & deckle edge), ARS Handbook For Selecting Roses

1. Go to your local liquor store and ask for boxes with dividers.
2. Place your roses, which have been groomed and in vases, in the boxes and turn on the air conditioner before you place on the back seat in your car.

GROOM THE BLOOM:

1. Remove the outer petals if unsightly
2. Use cuticle scissors to trim brown off the bloom
3. Tilt flower forward in vase making a wedge of plastic wrap behind the bloom
4. Mist rose to make it look “fresh” but don’t overdo it
5. If leaves are dull, rub slightly with nylon

TO PICK A QUEEN:

1. Draw a vertical line down the rose – half should be on one side and the other half on the other side
2. Viewed from the side, lower petals should not be below the horizontal plane. Draw a horizontal line at base of bloom. Remove anything hanging below.
3. If sepal is too long, trim off and/or cut another.
4. Trim edges of bloom to promote symmetry.
My First Visit to a Special Rose Garden

By Suzanne Murphy

My very first visit to Hartford, Connecticut's Elizabeth Park, a rather proper rose garden, occurred on a pretty day in June of 1945. I was a city kid. Our family lived in a nice, sunny apartment across from a lovely park that offered no flowers, just stately trees and shrubs. I made daily use of this park for jacks, roller skating and pick-up ball games with bigger kids. Those particular years were quite cruel for all Americans; it was World War II, after all, and all beauty had gone quite missing. Anxiety was on every face, every day, all the time, day and night. It was unrelenting and quietly horrifying to the civilians at home. Please consider, and imagine the American soldier's plight, his daily life? Oh yes, he did get meat.

continued on page 6
The Hartford Armory was two blocks north. Uniformed Army soldiers with rifles marched up and down Ashley Street twice per day. All residents were required to install blackout window shades, no lights permitted after dark. Air-raid siren drills rather often pierced the uneasy quiet of our neighborhood. Universal fear controlled our days and nights until VE Day finally arrived. America today has no notion of what war really means to her civilian citizens. Hartford’s grocery stores had thinly supplied or empty shelves; no beef or butter was available. Women could not buy silk stockings; the silk was needed for war parachutes. Gasoline use was strictly monitored. Those few who had cars were issued stingy ration books. There was no shortage of cigarettes, however; they were plentiful everywhere. The liquor stores were fully stocked. Some things are just universal and timeless. My Uncles Joe and Frank did Civil Air Patrol duty.

It was an ordinary Tuesday in May, the eighth actually, of 1945 when Victory in Europe was declared. The entire city of Hartford enjoyed the first night of lights, tight blackout curtains were ripped down and everyone, even I, got drunk on joy and relief. Chocolate was once again available, as well as stockings. Everyone fell in love with steak. And there was butter for every piece of toast—God’s blessing! The men who had served America in the war started to come home in drifts, then torrents, of soldiers. Except the ones who did not, of course. Their sad names were duly inscribed onto the war memorial in my town’s only park. After a bit the soldiers who had no home to go to began gathering there, staring at the “Hero’s Wall of Honor.” They had bottles that they kept in little paper bags from the liquor store. When the sad soldiers got to be a public nuisance the cops came and took them away. A few had to be taken away several times. These guys had no civilian clothes; no place to call home. They were mentally and physically damaged. Our heroes quickly became pests, and no one helped them. People turned their backs.

When my Uncle Edwin came home safely the family decided we all needed a day at Elizabeth Park. The famous roses were again in full bloom. Always impressionable, I immediately became overwhelmed by the sheer beauty of the endless cascades of 100 acres of scented roses. The pavilions and pagodas and little bridges and ponds enchanted me. I can still visit Elizabeth Park in my adoring memory. I urge you all to make a visit. The park—and the roses—are still there. Everyone needs a beautiful, lingering romance with Elizabeth Park and her gardens.

Originally Elizabeth Park was a large private estate of 101 acres. It opened to the public in 1897. The rose garden was opened as America’s first public rose garden in 1904, the prettiest place (even the boring trees) on God’s green earth. We must always seek and create beauty, for there can never be enough if we fail to provide it generation to generation. And might we also take better care of our soldiers; just a quiet thought?

Editor’s Note: The Elizabeth Park Rose Garden is today supported by the Elizabeth Park Conservancy, and is on the National Register of Historic Places. Located in Hartford and West Hartford, CT, the garden today contains over 15,000 rose bushes and 800 varieties of old and new roses in the garden. If you’d like to visit, the arches of rambler roses are in full, spectacular bloom in late June and early July. Many of the other roses in the park keep blooming until fall. Visit their website to see a schedule of speakers and events for 2018: www.elizabethparkct.org.

2018 Events Calendar

Southampton Rose Society Events

Dates and times are not yet completely finalized for all 2018 events, but we are planning the following events. Please attend as many as you can!

SATURDAY, APRIL 21 at 10 AM
Pruning and Planting Workshop with Peter Bertrand

Location: SRS Rose Garden at Roger’s Memorial Library
Morris Room (lower level)
91 Coopers Farm Road
Southampton, NY 11968

FRIDAY, MAY 11 at 4 PM
Children’s Mini Rose and Art Workshop with Peter Bertrand

Location: Roger’s Memorial Library
Morris Room (lower level)
SATURDAY, JUNE 9 at 11 AM
Preparing Roses for the Rose Show with Helga Dawn

Location: Helga’s garden at her home

SATURDAY, JUNE 16 from 7 AM to 4 PM
42nd Annual Rose Show

Location: Rogers Memorial Library
Morris Room (lower level)

WEDNESDAY, JULY 4 at 10 AM
Southampton Fourth of July Parade

Location: Southampton Village
Railroad Plaza to Agawam Park

FRIDAY, JULY 6 from 5:30 PM to 8 PM
Annual Cocktail Party Fundraiser

Location: A beautiful garden in
Southampton’s Estate section

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 8 at 4 PM
Annual Members Garden Party

Location: A member’s beautiful garden

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 13
Annual Members Meeting and Luncheon/Lecture

11 AM Members Meeting
12 PM Luncheon/Lecture

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

Horticultural Alliance of the Hamptons (HAH) Monthly Lectures

All lectures start at 2 pm in the main hall of the Bridgehampton Community House. Free for members, $10 per person for nonmembers.

APRIL 8
Thomas Mickey—America’s Romance with the English Garden

MAY 6
Diane Barthel-Bouchier—Botanical Art: A Continuing Tradition

JUNE 10
Ken Greene—The Wonder of Seeds
www.seedshed.org

SEPTEMBER 9
Lynden Miller—The Designer’s Eye

OCTOBER 14
Anne Haines—Fragrant Plants

NOVEMBER 11
Jane Garmey—A Sense of Place: An Inside Look at a Wide Variety of Private Gardens in Connecticut and the Hudson Valley

DECEMBER 9
Donald W. Hyatt—Chasing the Bloom in the Southern Appalachians
www.donaldhyatt.com

LONG ISLAND ROSE SOCIETY EVENTS

Meetings are held at the Old Bethpage/Plainview Library, 996 Old Country Road, Plainview on the second Friday of each month from March to December, at 7 pm. Meetings are downstairs. Membership is $25 per household, per year. Members receive monthly newsletters with information on gardening tips, upcoming meetings, garden tours, garden parties and rose shows. Their president is Louis Arce, who has kindly served as a judge for the SRS rose show on numerous occasions. The Long Island Rose Show is held each June at Planting Fields Arboretum. For more information, visit their website: www.longislandroses.org.
On July 6th we will hold our annual Cocktail Party Fundraiser at one of the most beautiful estates in Southampton Village—watch our website and the next issue of *Dune Rose* for details. It will again be a delightful event with live music, sparkling rosé wine and fabulous food. The event includes an always-popular silent auction with quality merchandise and giftables, 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 wish to donate. Your donation is tax deductible.

I encourage your active participation this year. We are looking to fill a couple of Board seats such as Recording Secretary and Correspondence Secretary so please e-mail me if you wish to volunteer. Our Board is dynamic and fun to work with. We are fortunate to have such an amazing group of dedicated people. Also, please bring family and friends to our events. Invite people to get involved in meeting others and learning more about the beauty and pleasure we get from roses in one of the most beautiful places on Earth. Our love of and passion for roses should be shared with all!

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

Jim Berkrot

*PRESIDENT, Southampton Rose Society*