



Rose Ramblings

Website: <http://www.sdrosesociety.org>

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JOURNAL OF THE SAN DIEGO ROSE SOCIETY

JANUARY 2009

The Science and Art of Pruning

By Diana & Walt Kilmer, originalsbydiana42@verizon.net

Once again, it is that time of year. Here in Southern California, we must prune our roses to make them go dormant. When you prune your roses is up to you. However, it is advisable to prune them in January to achieve the best spring blooms.

Some rosarians who grow their roses for showing have their pruning “secrets.” With the first show of the year in mind, they count back sixteen weeks, or, if their roses grow in the warmer micro-climates of the county, they count back only fourteen weeks. The truth is that only Mother Nature knows when that first bloom cycle for the spring will take place.

Tools. First of all, it is important to have all the proper tools to

reach the hard-to-get places at the base of the rose, and, most important, a wire BBQ brush to clean up the bud union. Have lots of heavy duty black trash bags available for the cuttings, too.

Where to start pruning? The science of pruning roses begins with a major decision: which roses to prune first? Do the roses that always seem to be the last to bloom in your garden often provide the first flush of roses in the spring? If you know the answer to that question, then you already know which to prune first this year. In our garden, we start with the Old Garden Roses for they seem to take the most time in coming back with foliage as well as the bloom, and when you have 400 roses in your garden you have to start somewhere.



Kilmers' rose garden, Courtesy of Walt & Diana Kilmer.

assure that the job will go faster and easier. We use large Corona pruners with a handle that extends, Corona mid-size pruners, and my personal favorite the Felco #2 pruner which prevents my hand from wearing out when pruning a lot of roses in one day. We also have handy a sheet rock saw, a small rake with an extending handle

Old Garden Roses. In pruning Old Garden Roses, remember that they like to bloom on last year's wood, so look at the coloration on the canes and determine which are the oldest. Remove those, leaving eight to ten of the newer canes that have a darker green coloration. At the same time, make sure that all the smaller twiggy

canes are removed all the way to the bottom of the plant (this is to encourage new basal breaks for the spring). Take off only half of the growth from this year, thus allowing for new growth on the canes for next year. If you live in a much hotter area of the county, look at the growing habit of your Old Garden Roses and see if they would rather become climbers. If that is the case, then you can spread the canes horizontally and remove the lateral canes down to about five inches above the lateral to encourage new growth with better blooms at eye level. (Refer to diagram #1).

Climbing roses. When pruning climbing roses, take the canes down to a horizontal level that is easy for you to maintain and remove the laterals down to about five inches above the horizontal canes. Secure your canes using an eyelet on the fence and then place an electrical tie wrap around the cane, pulling it secure but not too tight, thus allowing growing room for the year. If your climbing rose is on a trellis, you will also need to make sure to cut the laterals and re-secure the canes onto the trellis after all the foliage is removed.

HT's, Minis and mini-floras. When you start to prune hybrid teas, minis and mini-floras, you should look at the growth habit of the plant. Is it upright or does it like to sprawl? If your plant is an upright growing rose, then you will want to make sure that all the canes are cut to the outside eye (thus keeping the center of the plant open so it can breathe once all the new foliage is on in the spring). With hybrid tea's, we like to prune out any of the canes that are smaller than a #2 pencil or index finger, leaving at least three to five canes (five is preferable). Be sure to remove any canes that have died. Take the canes that you are removing all the way to the bud union of the rose plant, then using the wire BBQ brush, clean off any of the old and dried crusty wood, being careful to not hit any of the new basal breaks that may be coming on. Some people like to cut HT's down to eighteen inches. A hint is to go knee high so all the plants will be uniform in height to start the growing season. Cut the mini and mini-floras back by half to two-thirds or leave them about eight inches in height, remove all the twiggy canes, and clean out the center of the plants. Finally, be sure to also remove all the leaves on each plant. A good way to make this faster and easier is to take the top of the

plant in one hand and then with a leather glove on the other to prevent injury just strip the leaves off with a downward motion.

Floribundas, English roses and shrub roses have many more canes than the HT's because these varieties need them to produce the abundance of blooms. Once again, cut out any of the twiggy canes to keep the center of the plant open (refer to diagram #2) and take all the foliage off.

A note about "Shovel pruning." If you have been unhappy with the performance of a certain rose that has been in your garden for three years or more, then get rid of it and go out and purchase a new rose that might do better in your garden.

Dormant spraying. Once you have all the pruning completed, and you have finished the clean up, you are ready to do dormant spraying. Be sure to schedule a day when you know that there will not be rain for at least 24 to 36 hours. Before you begin, read the instructions on the label and make sure to follow them. The old adage that more is better does not work. It is also advisable to spray the ground around the roses to make sure that any insects or fungi are killed off and will not return at the sight of the first lush green foliage in the spring. We prefer the dormant spray that is manufactured by Lilly and we add Volk Oil which makes the spray sticky and helps to ensure that it stays on the plant.

Give roses a bedtime snack. With the dormant spraying completed, you are ready to give your roses their special treat for the year. Our "Secret" formula is to combine one cup of Alfalfa meal with one cup of Epsom salts (Magnesium of Sulfate), water this in, and then apply two to three inches of mulch that is ½ horse manure (if you can get chicken manure, that works well also if it has been aged). Water the mulch in to keep it from blowing away and say "good night" for a few weeks.

Once the roses have started to get new foliage of about three inches in length in the spring, you can start your regular monthly feeding program and wait for Mother Nature to produce those beautiful blooms once more.

If you have any questions about your pruning schedule, please drop us an email or give us a phone call at 951-693-5568. Good luck and may all your roses be happy.

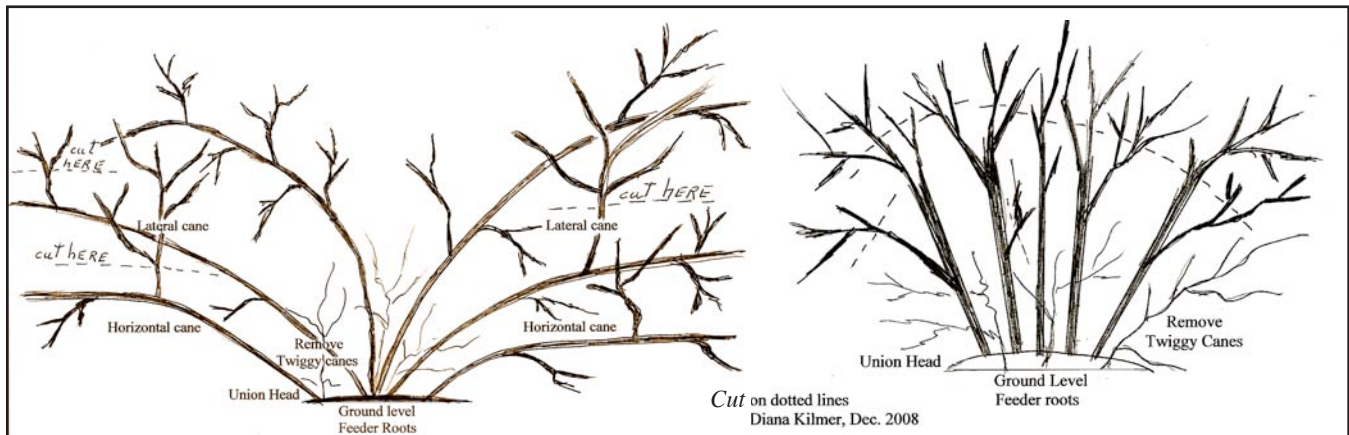


Diagram 1: Pruning Old Garden Roses and Climbing Roses.
By Diana Kilmer.

Diagram 2: Pruning Floribunda Roses, English Roses & Shrub
Roses. By Diana Kilmer.

Rose Ramblings

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San Diego Rose Society, Inc.

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The San Diego Rose Society is classified as a charitable corporation under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code and section 23701(d) of the California Revenue & Taxation Code. It serves the needs of San Diego County rose growers through this publication, membership meetings, an annual rose show, and support of the Inez Grant Parker Memorial Rose Garden in Balboa Park. It is affiliated with the American Rose Society, Inc. which may be contacted at P. O. Box 30000, Shreveport LA 71130-0030.

Monthly meetings of the San Diego Rose Society are held on the third Monday of each month at 7:30 PM in room 101 of the Casa del Prado in Balboa Park, excepting in July and August, or as otherwise announced in the Rose Ramblings or the Sunday Homescape Datebook of the San Diego Union-Tribune.

Annual Membership dues are \$15 on an email electronic PDF file format and \$25 USPS per calendar year per person or household. Send dues with name(s), address, including zip + 4, and telephone number to San Diego Rose Society Membership, P O Box 86124, San Diego CA 92138-6124.

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FREE ROSE ADVICE

By Sue Streeper, Streepers@cox.net

Dick Streeper has updated his Calendar of Rose Care for the 2009 season. It includes his recommendations for fertilizing, watering, and disease control as well as the best rose varieties for San Diego. The calendar is available on the home page of the rose society website at sdrosesociety.org. It will print on one 8 1/2 by 11 sheet for posting where you keep your garden supplies.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

JANUARY 24, 2009 (Saturday)

ROSE CARE SEMINAR
ROOM 101, CASA
DEL PRADO, BALBOA
PARK.

9am-3:30pm cost \$20.00

Info: Gary Bulman

760-739-8342 or e-mail

gossbulman@cox.net.

APRIL 18-19, 2009

CORONADO FLOWER
SHOW

Spreckels Park
Coronado, CA

Info: Carvill Veech
(619) 405-5769

carvill@san.rr.com

APRIL 25, 2009

LOS ANGELES ROSE
SHOW

L.A. ARBORETUM

Info: Chris Greenwood

crisgreen@aol.com

FEBRUARY 21, 2009 (Saturday)

CONSULTING
ROSARIAN SCHOOL
AND SEMINAR

ROOM 101 Casa Del
Prado

Balboa Park

8:30am-3:30pm(See article)

Cost \$25.00

Info: Roger English

(619) 582-3794

rozluvr@cox.net

MAY 3, 2009

CALIFORNIA COASTAL
ROSE SHOW

Carlsbad, CA.

Info: Sharon McColgan

(760)967-3856

smccolgan@cox.net

MARCH 14, 2009

JUDGES SEMINAR

(For updating credential)

PACIFIC ROSE SOCIETY

Los Angeles Arboretum

301 N. Baldwin Ave.

Arcadia, CA

8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

cost \$15.00

Info: Chris Greenwood

(626) 914-7585 or (626)

252-9600

crisgreen@aol.com

JUNE 6, 2009

SAN DIEGO ROSE SHOW

Barona Casino, Convention
Center

Info: Linda Clark

e-mail: lincline@cox.net

Rozluvr's Report- A Special Thank You To Members Who Contributed To SDRS Activities In 2008

By Roger English, President, rozluvr@cox.net

A successful rose society such as ours requires the efforts of a large number of people with many different talents and abilities. It is fitting to give recognition to these members. I apologize in advance for the inevitable omissions of some of you. Please let me know and you will be included next month.

Marilyn Cooper-Ongley has been our faithful hospitality chairman for many years. It has been so long that she can't remember when she first started. We are fortunate that she will be organized to keep us in cookies and coffee again in 2009.

Steve Dillard took a lot of great rose photos in the Streepers' and Tiffany gardens that would have been seen at the holiday party if the power point program hadn't failed. Many of his beautiful roses were entered in the Little Rose Show and won often enough that he was awarded the Novice Little Rose Show Trophy.

Manny Belandres deserves praise as our Rose Ramblings editor. He puts in long hours every month bringing our newsletter to fruition. The 2007 Rose Ramblings won Honorable Mention in competition with all the local rose societies of the American Rose Society.

Phil Ash, CR, gave his usual terrific presentation on Pests and Pestilence at our 2008 Rose Care Seminar.

Jean Swanson, CR, wrote a rose of the month article for rose ramblings and made many other contributions as a consulting rosarian.

John Lester served as a board member at large and opened his beautiful garden for the summer rose tour. His gorgeous roses have been displayed in the Little Rose Show, at the San Diego County Fair and other rose shows in the San Diego area.

Walt and Diana Kilmer, CRs, are always pitching in and helping out despite the fact that they live in Temecula.

Mona Oge has been in charge of our T-shirt sales

and will continue in 2009. She also helps out with our rose auction.

Virginia West wears multiple hats. She has done a terrific job as our recording secretary for two years at board meetings and is our incoming vice president of membership. Virginia enlisted the help of her husband **Mark** who was a big help in organizing our holiday party. Virginia and Mark have taken on the big job of being chairmen of the SDRS 2009 San Diego County Fair.

Steve Berry headed up the SDRS 2008 Rose Care Seminar. Steve was the chairman for three very successful years and has now turned this over to **Gary Bulman**. He has been chairman of the mailing committee for Rose Ramblings for many years.

Dick Streeper, CR, is fueled by his passion for roses as is evidenced by his innumerable contributions over multiple decades (he was SDRS president in 1969). In 2008 he was the innovative chairman of our very successful rose show. He and Sue Streeper organized and directed our Little Rose Shows. He wrote several articles for Rose Ramblings including three lead articles. Dick recruited and trained the members of the Rose Garden Corps several years ago and they continue to maintain the Balboa Park Rose Garden under Dick's supervision.

Linda Hitney is our wonderful webmaster and contributed a great deal as a board member at large.

Doug Kalal, CR, contributed his skill as a professional landscape designer to our San Diego County Fair rose garden. He is responsible for our monthly ABC article. For several years he has conducted a survey of SDRS members' favorite roses and published the results in the Rose Ramblings. He wrote several articles for the Rose Ramblings Rose of the Month feature.

Kathy Reed and Dwyann Robbie, CRs, gave us

See Rozluvr's report, page 5

a wonderful February meeting program, Roses for Del Mar. Much of this was a tribute to **Phil Ash, CR** for his leading role in founding the Del Mar Rose Society.

Frank Hastings, CR, has been our faithful historian for several decades. Some of you may be unaware of the large archives chronicling the events of SDRS since its founding in 1927. This information is often useful in planning programs and writing articles. He wrote an article and contributed a photo for Rose of the Month in Rose Ramblings.

Sue Streeper, CR, one of the rocks of SDRS, completed her second year as our treasurer (she was president in 1981 and 2002). She has been our proofreader for Rose Ramblings and wrote several 2008 articles including one lead article. Sue was a speaker at our annual Rose Care Seminar. She and Dick Streeper were in charge of our Little Rose shows. For many years she and Dick have hosted an open garden in April.

Gary Bulman, CR, has done several home rose garden consultations in the Escondido area. He took charge of the Rose Exhibiting 101 program. Gary showed lots of beautiful roses in the Little Rose Show and won the trophy that was presented to him at the holiday party. Gary wrote the lead article for the January Rose Ramblings. In addition, he contributes each month to the ABC feature of Rose Ramblings.

Al Heck, Rose Wrangler, with the capable assistance of his wife **Lana**, was the chairman of the SDRS Rose Garden at the San Diego County Fair. This was his fourth successful year in charge of our largest volunteer event. He wrote one lead article among many others for the Rose Ramblings. He was a speaker at the SDRS Rose Care Seminar. To be sure the SDRS board would not miss out on his humor and sage advice he was invited back as a board member at large for 2009.

Dixie Dahl, CR, contributed a rose of the month article to Rose Ramblings. She has served previously as Vice President of Programs.

Ruth Tiffany, CR, agreed to take on the demanding position of vice president of programs for 2008 immediately after serving for three years as president. She opened her garden to SDRS members in April.

Linda Clark, CR, finished two years as our membership chairman and will continue on the board as recording secretary. She was very active on the 2008 rose show committee and is the chair of our 2009 rose show.

Bob Kolb has been the corresponding secretary for your board and will return as the 2009 treasurer. He did a superb job as chairman of our electronic newsletter committee. At the holiday party he was presented with the Rosebud Award. This award honors a relatively new member who has made outstanding contributions to SDRS.

Barbara Lester has taken numerous photos that have been featured in Rose Ramblings. She and John Lester opened their garden for the summer rose tour.

Bob Martin, CR, gave a great power point presentation on newer roses at our January meeting.

Gail Nagle wrote a very useful article on Removing Spent Blooms for the Rose Ramblings.

Paula Taylor was responsible for arranging free printing for our Rose Care Seminar.

Maryjane Roe is a very accomplished writer and contributed many wonderful articles and photos to Rose Ramblings in 2008 and in previous years.

Dixie Dahl, CR, contributed an article and photo on Sally Holmes to our Rose of the Month feature.

Miriam Yoder has been responsible for our monthly Calendar of Events in Rose Ramblings. She wrote an article and submitted a photo for Rose Ramblings Rose of the Month.

**MEETINGS
AND
PROGRAMS**

DATE: JANUARY 26, 2009:

(4th Monday). Save the date.

NOTE: that this meeting and the February meeting are on the Fourth Monday of the month instead of the 3rd because of holidays.

Time and Place: 7:30pm in room 101 of the Casa del Prado.

Program: Monsters and Mutants: How and Why roses “sport,” and when these things go wrong by Jolene Adams.

Jan. 24: Rose Care Seminar in Room 101 Casa del Prado from 9:00am-3:30pm. Subjects to be presented include “The Right Rose for the Right Spot” by Robert B. Martin, “Organic Rose Care” by Jack Shoultz, container growing with demonstrations by Al Heck and a rose pruning demonstration and instruction.

Monsters and Mutants Program

Jolene Adams, district director for the Northern California, Nevada, and Hawaii District of the American Rose Society, will present her program “Monsters and Mutants” at the January meeting of the San Diego Rose Society. The topic covers how and why roses “sport,” that is, mutate, and when these things go wrong (the monsters part).

Jolene is a candidate for vice president of the American Rose Society. Her background in roses and in service to rose organizations is awesome. She has held multiple offices in several San Francisco Bay area rose societies as well as on the district and national level. Specifically, she was webmaster for the NCNH District from 1996 to 2003. She has been webmaster for the American Rose Society Home Page from 1995 to the present. She is an ARS master consulting rosarian, a master gardener, a rose horticulture judge, and publisher of *ARS and You*.

Jolene grows over 150 roses of all types including climbers, old garden roses, minis and minifloras, hybrid teas, grandifloras, floribundas, polyanthas, Austins, romanticas, and shrubs. She lectures widely in computing issues, general gardening topics, and on roses. Get more information on her background at jolene_adams@ix.netcom.com. Don't miss her enlightening and entertaining talk at our January meeting.

ROSE CARE SEMINAR

By Gary Bulman, gossbulman@cox.net

Our rose society is hosting a rose care seminar in room 101, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park on January 24, 2009, from 9AM to 3PM. We will be disseminating information that will enable the membership to better understand how to select and care for roses in the garden. This seminar will offer tips and instructions for the grower who just wants to cut a few roses to bring into the house as well as for those interested in taking their roses to a show.

This year's speakers have accumulated many years of experience in growing roses and, as is true with most rose growers, they love to share what they have learned.

Bob Martin will speak on “The Right Rose in the Right Spot.” A horticultural and arrangement judge, editor of “Horizon Roses” and prolific author on rose culture, he has written a wonderful book, “Showing Good Roses.”

Jack Shoultz is an organic rose grower, master consulting rosarian and has won awards for his organic rose care articles that have been published in the ARS magazine. His topic is “Organic Rose Care.”

Bill Tall owns City Farmers Nursery and will speak on “Full Cycle Organic Gardening.”

Al Heck (our former “rose wrangler”) will present information and demonstrate how to grow roses in containers.

Gary Bulman will instruct and demonstrate proper rose pruning techniques and present some ideas on general rose care and watering.

The cost of the seminar is \$20.00 for the day (lunch not included). Checks should be made out to the San Diego Rose Society and sent to Gary Bulman, 969 West 5th Ave., Escondido, Ca 92025. A registration form is available at www.sdrosesociety.org. Contact Gary Bulman at gossbulman@cox.net or 760-739-8342 for more information

Caring for Our Roses and Beaches

By Hawkeye Sheene, hsheene@hotmail.com

We are gifted in San Diego County with the sunny skies and temperate weather that nurture beautiful roses for much of the year, as well as valuable resources such as rivers, lagoons and beaches. But would you have guessed that our rose gardens can directly impact the health of these aquatic environments?

Rainfall or irrigation water that flows into parking lots or streets discharges into storm drains. Unfortunately, storm drains don't filter water or debris, nor are they connected to the sewer system, so any pollutant that flows into a drain ends up in a river, lagoon, and eventually our ocean. Therefore, our garden practices like irrigation and "gardenkeeping," as well as the use of fertilizers and pesticides can have a major impact on the vitality of our local watersheds. The good news is that by implementing a few easy steps we can enjoy beautiful roses and a healthy environment.

Irrigation: We all know that roses require good drainage and abundant water to thrive. However, water running off your landscape may carry soil, yard waste, fertilizers and pesticides with it into the storm drain. The following tips can keep our roses and landscape healthy, and stop the transport of pollution into the environment.



*Test irrigation systems for leaks, breaks, and misaligned sprinkler heads to ensure home irrigation systems operate at peak efficiency. One broken spray sprinkler can waste ten gallons per minute – or 100 gallons in a typical ten-minute watering cycle.

* Do you have water running off your property? Consider cutting back on total irrigation time or break up your irrigation into shorter but more frequent time periods. You can also use the Landscape Calculator at www.sandiego.gov/water/conservation to set a water-wise irrigation schedule.

* Irrigate in tune with the seasons. Now that its winter, most plants require only a third as much water as they do in summer months. In fact, too much water now can keep roses from entering dormancy over the winter months, which may make them less vigorous in spring. And when it is raining, turn your irrigation system off.

* Group roses with other higher-water-use plants so that only certain areas of the landscape require more irrigation.

Low water-use plants can grow with one-half the water needed by high water-use plants, and can be easily damaged from over watering.

* Check your soil to ensure that you are watering properly. Use a soil probe or other method to ensure that your rose is getting moisture to a soil depth of 12 to 18 inches, but the soil is not staying saturated, which may cause the roots to rot.

* Mulch all plants well. It prevents moisture loss, as well as improves the soil and combats weed growth.

Fertilizers & Pesticides: We have all battled pests and pestilence such as aphids, slugs, beetles, black spot, rust, and powdery mildew on our roses. Sometimes, fungicides or pesticides may be required to protect the appearance, if not the health of the plants. All plants need nutrients and roses are no exception. For vigorous, healthy blooms, fertilizer may need to be applied regularly throughout the growing season. Unfortunately, nutrients

can cause problems like algal blooms in our creeks and lakes, which can cause murky-green, oxygen-deprived water. In addition, pesticides kill more than the bugs eating your roses; they contaminate drinking and surface water, and can cause acute insecticide poisoning in humans and

wildlife. However, we can help reduce the impact of fertilizers and pesticides on our environment in several simple ways.

* Read fertilizer and pesticide labels and apply as directed. More than is recommended won't help the plant and adds to what ends up in the environment.

* Pay attention to the weather. Don't apply products right before a forecasted rain. Your work will literally go down the (storm) drain.

* Practice Integrated Pest Management (IPM) to control pests and weeds, which will help reduce pesticide use and increase use of less-toxic alternatives

"Gardenkeeping": Roses and our environment both share a common interest in good "gardenkeeping" practices. Taking proper care of chemicals, trash, and hazardous or yard waste is just as important outside as good housekeeping is in our homes. For example, allowing the buildup of yard waste, like leaves and cut grass, in and around your rose bushes can increase

See *Caring For Our Roses and Beaches*, page 8

Consulting Rosarian School and Seminar

Roger English, rozluvr@cox.net

On February 21 2009 from 8:30-3:30 a consulting rosarian school and seminar will be held in room 101, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park.

For anyone who wants to become a consulting rosarian, there is a requirement that you be an ARS member for about three years by the time the test is given on February 21. Complete qualifications are available at: <http://www.pswdistrict.org/text/crsort.html>. Application forms are also provided at this website. An open book test from the Consulting Rosarian's Manual is given for new candidates after the school. The Consulting Rosarian's Manual is available for \$15 at http://www.ars.org/index.php?main_page=product_info&products_id=112 or by calling the ARS at (318) 938-5402. Bring a check made out to the ARS for \$10 and give this to Bert or Kay Grant.

Baldo Villegas, CR and entomologist claims to have the buggiest site on the internet on his Bugs and Roses Home Page, <http://www.sactorose.org/rosebug/>. He will be speaking on Integrated Pest Management and Pesticide Safety. He has an engaging personality and spoke at the 2004 ARS National Convention and Rose Show in San Diego.

Sue Streeper will talk about the art of communicating with newer rosarians in a simple manner to help them learn and become enthused about roses.

Bert and Kay Grant, our PSWD CRs, will present the CR Mission and do an overview of the consulting rosarian manual.

Roger English will give a power point presentation covering soils and nutritional problems.

A continental breakfast and box lunch will be provided. Registration deadline is Saturday, February 14. To register, send a check for \$25 made out to the San Diego Rose Society to Roger English, 4630 Cajon Way, San Diego, CA 92115.

Caring For Our Roses and Beaches continued from page 7

occurrence of diseases. In addition, yard waste left on the ground can be caught up in storm water runoff. The material may clog storm drains and then decompose there, adding high levels of bacteria and nutrients to the water that flows untreated into our creeks, rivers, lakes, and ocean. Good "gardenkeeping" practices, like those listed below, are easy to implement and help to protect our environment, as well as keep our roses healthy and our gardens beautiful.

- * Rake up yard waste and dispose of in a yard waste container or if applicable, your compost bin.
- * Use a broom to clean patios, driveways and walkways. Using a hose for this chore wastes water and sends pollutants down the storm drain and into our waterways.
- * Clean up pet waste. It isn't a good fertilizer and can carry harmful bacteria and viruses.
- * Take a look outside your home and identify what could be a pollutant if it came into contact with rain or irrigation water. Make sure that you store your hazardous materials or waste out of the rain and the reach of water flowing on the ground. This would include things like paint cans, fertilizers, pesticides, cleaners, and containers of used motor oil or grease. Pay careful attention to manufacturer's directions for storage, or properly dispose of at a Household Hazardous Waste Collection Facility.

As dedicated rose lovers and gardeners, we spend a lot of time enjoying the outdoors. Working together, our garden practices can make a positive difference in the health of our roses as well as our community.

Resources: For more information on water conservation, visit the San Diego County Water Authority website at www.sdcwa.org. For more information on IPM, visit the University of California, Irvine IPM website at www.ipm.ucdavis.edu or contact a Consulting Rosarian by visiting the San Diego Rose Society website at www.sdrosesociety.org. For more information on our watersheds and the impacts of urban runoff, visit the County of San Diego's website at www.projectcleanwater.org.

About

Basic

Care

PRUNING AND ROSE SELECTIONS

By ARS consulting rosarians—
Gary Bulman, gossbulman@cox.net
Doug Kalal, kalal5@sbcglobal.net,
www.sdgreatgardens.com
Roger English, rozluvr@cox.net

Rose Ramblings: *January is the month for rose pruning. Describe in just three sentences, the three most important points to keep in mind when pruning roses.*

Doug: Clear the center of the bush of all crossing stems. Remove all foliage from the bush. Clean up all debris and old mulch around the bush.

Roger: Cut out all dead and declining canes flush with the bud union. Create good air circulation by clearing out the center of any crossing canes or twiggy growth. Cut canes to the height you have determined.

Gary: Determine the height you want the plant to be after pruning. Remove all old and dead canes and twiggy growth. Dormant spray.

Rose

Ramblings: *January is also bare root season, when rose selection and quality is at its peak. What roses would you recommend for a beginning rose grower?*

Doug: Betty Boop is a great disease resistant bloom machine of a Floribunda. Neptune, a hybrid tea, has great fragrance. Crimson Bouquet is a wonderful big red rose – very romantic.

Roger: Hybrid teas. I would advise : Double Delight (the number one favorite of San Diego Rose Society Members) for its lovely red blend blooms and wonderful fragrance, Let Freedom Ring (exquisite strawberry red blooms on a vigorous upright bush), Falling in Love (seductive pink exhibition blooms on a strong upright four foot plant) and Black Magic (gorgeous dark red blooms with petals that look and feel like velvet on a sturdy upright bush to six feet). Recommended floribundas are: Trumpeter (orange red blooms in sprays on a compact, disease resistant, three foot plant), Ebb Tide (very fragrant sprays of

purple blooms), Julia Child (favorite floribunda of SDRS members) for its bright yellow sprays with a strong licorice fragrance on a compact two and one half to three foot bush and City of San Francisco (large clusters of exquisite crimson blooms on a four foot tall plant with glossy green foliage).

Gary: Playboy and Johann Strauss are two great floribundas that are easy to grow with lots of blooms. I also love the hybrid teas; Veterans' Honor, Let Freedom Ring, St. Patrick, Signature and Gemini. Do not overlook a couple of miniatures in pots as they provide lots of blooms and can be stage high for easy maintenance.

Rose Ramblings: *What roses are you looking to buy this bare root season?.*

Doug: I am looking to buy Fourth of July, a wonderful climber to replace the one I lost due to the construction on my house. I am also going to get some more Hot Princess's from Wisconsin Roses.

Roger: The roses I plan to purchase are not ones I would necessarily recommend to everybody. Moonstone is a white hybrid tea with some pink on the edges that fairly often has confused centers but sometimes will have gorgeous exhibition quality blooms that win queen in rose shows. Hot Princess is a hot pink hybrid tea with consistently good exhibition form. In my opinion it grows best on fortuniana root stock and can be bought from K&M nursery in Mississippi.

Gary: My garden is just about at full capacity. However, I am going to try Pink Promise (HT), Pinnacle (Fl) and a couple of new minis, Unbridled and Eternal Flame.

The Kinda Sorta Minutes

by Al Heck, aheck1@san.rr.com

Tom Carruth visited us at the November general meeting and put on quite a show. As one of the most successful and famous rose hybridizers in the universe, it's hard to ignore what he says, plus, he says it so well and displays a delightful sense of humor. For example, Santa Claus is a rose he has used more than once in crossing pairs for new seedlings. What we didn't know is that Santa Claus was the MOTHER. With that bit of knowledge, "crossing pairs" can be seen in a whole new context.

Tom thinks his "Julia Child" rose will be one of his top five all-time favorites at the end of his career. In general, he loves great foliage, disease resistance, compact growth habits, wonderful color, and LOTS of bloom. One of his new roses he likes a lot is "Shock Wave", a brilliant neon yellow floribunda that absolutely shouts "Here I am!" in a garden. "Rock and Roll" is a new striped grandiflora with a vanilla reverse that he likes a lot too. In general, listening to Tom is exhausting because he makes you want to tear out all your old roses and start fresh with his fantastic new varieties. I'm much too old for this.

Things I learned: (1) It takes at least 10 years from planting a new rose seed until it comes to market. (2) All rose scent is not attractive. Tom talked about one scent they called "catbox". If you've ever kept cats as pets, you know what he's talking about.

Oh, yes. The slate of Rose Society officers for 2009 was elected by acclamation. There were no nominations from the floor. What a surprise. The new officers will be installed at the December holiday party on December 7th. I'm being installed as a Board Member at Large, and am a bit apprehensive at the size of the tools they use to install new Board Members, especially one as large as me.

SDRS Holiday Awards Luncheon

By Virginia West, virgorcz@hotmail.com

It was sails, not roses, spotted in the distance by the SDRS revelers looking out from the fifth floor of the Holiday Inn Bayside on that December Sunday morning. The group, including Maggi Jensen in a lovely black frock embroidered with metallic silver roses, and Gary Bulman, sporting a pink rose boutonniere, listened to Roger English deliver a warm welcome to attendees. Roger announced the 2008 Rosebud Award went to Bob Kolb. The Bronze Award winner--Ruth Tiffany--will be acknowledged at the January meeting as she was away unexpectedly on family business.

Roger introduced each of the 2009 board members and appointees by recounting the unique talents and contributions that each had provided in 2008, as well as the talents of those incoming board members who are new for 2009. Before the board members could escape to their seats, MC Virginia West announced that any organization that is over 80 years old should be scrutinized for its board's mental functioning. She then commenced to grill the group with a "dementia test." At the conclusion, she was happy to announce the board as fit to bring the society into the twentieth century. Linda Clark announced the winners of the Little Rose Show: Gary Bulman won the trophy for highest point count; and Steve Dillard won the novice trophy. Kristen Dillard accepted the trophy on behalf of her dad who was home ill.

The buffet lunch enjoyed by all was roast beef, chicken coq au vin, Waldorf and Caesar salads; au gratin potatoes, long grain and wild rice; mixed vegetables, rolls, and New York-style cheesecake and amaretto mouse cake for dessert. After lunch, Virginia allowed the guests to finally open their individual goodie bags which they had been cautioned not to peek at earlier. She introduced the contents as a "coping kit" to assist everyone who is or will be affected by current economic or other adverse concerns and worries. Among the items was an incense stick and a scented candle (aromatherapy); chocolate hugs and kisses (for those who need a hug and a kiss); a chamomile tea bag (to calm the nerves or apply to roses); epsom salts (add rose petals and apply to bathwater; or put on roses instead); rose songs CD (music therapy); rose-colored glasses; a marble (for those who've lost theirs); and finally, a rose meditation. Door prizes went to the lucky four individuals who had the two marble shooters or two selected rose meditations.

Virginia announced that the rose pride slideshow was unfortunately unavailable for viewing due to computer glitches despite the best efforts of Bob Kolb and hotel staff. The presentation will be offered at a future SDRS meeting once the issue is resolved. All present will be personally notified of the date. The slide show contributors were announced and thanked with gifts that were distributed to those who were present.

Rose of the Month

Dortmund

By Katrin Utt, katsmailbag@san.rr.com

A few days ago my cat and I took our usual early morning stroll through our garden. The sun was warm and gentle, bees were busily collecting pollen from my roses and flowers and the birds were having a noisy breakfast around the birdfeeder. Another beautiful November morning in California.

I was trying to decide which of my ninety-five plus roses is my favorite. There was glorious Abraham Darby, Ambridge Rose, Perdida, Tamora and Prospero, all still blooming and filling the air with perfume. How I love those English roses! Then there are my many Heirlooms, equally loved. Francois Dubreuil, Eugene de Beauharnais, Mutabilis, Old Blush and Gloire des Rosomanes are still in bloom. Equally loved are my favorite modern roses, Sexy Remy, Julia Child, New Day, Long Tall Sally, Fame, Jardin de Bagatelle, Showbiz, Golden Wings, Francois Rabelais and many more. And what about the climbers? Altissimo is so spectacular, Don Juan charms the birds out of the trees to build nests in him and Fresh Pink is a prolific ever-blooming eye catcher. All great roses.

And then there is Dortmund, the showstopper. Named after a coal mining city in Germany, Dortmund seems to me a very unsuitable name for this glorious climber. It should be called "Red Splendor." In my garden it spreads horizontally fifteen feet along a low fence and is almost never out of bloom. The first flush is so dense that it covers most of the foliage, a spectacular sight. The large single blossoms come mostly in clusters and are bright red with white centers.

Bred by William Kordes in 1955, Dortmund is a Hybrid Kordesii classified as a shrub. It is rated 9.1 and listed as number one under the shrub category in the ARS handbook. It is disease free and extremely hardy and grows best on its own roots.

I love all my roses but Dortmund has been in my garden the longest. My dear friend Lawrence Smith gave it to



Dortmund HKor, medium red, single, 1955 9.1. Photo by Katrin Utt.

me in 1991. He owned Poway Nursery until the early 90s and has since passed away. He taught me most of what I know about heirloom roses and introduced me to the local Heirloom Rose Society. So although I love all my roses I will have to admit that Dortmund is special to me. It is definitely a scene-stealer when in full bloom.



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