



# Rose Ramblings

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

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MAY 2009

## WATER IN DROUGHT TIMES

By Hawkeye Sheene, [hsheene@hotmail.com](mailto:hsheene@hotmail.com)

In the San Diego region, we enjoy long months of rose-growing sunshine. However, this cloud-free weather comes at the expense of a plentiful local water supply, leaving San Diego to import almost 90 percent of its water. Unfortunately, the ongoing drought in the Colorado River basin and diminished snow pack and runoff in Northern California are reducing water flows leading to San Diego. With the entire state experiencing the third year of serious drought, San Diego's water supply is under pressure.

If San Diego's water wholesaler further reduces supplies this summer, the city will need to adopt a water allocation plan for users that reflects this cutback. If passed, the proposed allocation plan would likely go into effect July 1, 2009 and would specify each customer's monthly allocation of water, to be used in any way (inside or outside) that isn't wasteful. Individual water allocations would be

determined from a baseline of past water consumption from 2005, 2006, and 2007 and would reflect any given billing period during the same time. The new monthly allocation, the reduced amount of water available, would be a percentage (for example, 20 percent less) of that month's baseline. If a customer uses more water than he is allocated, he would be subject to fines and penalties.



Drought will require careful water conservation practices in our gardens. Watering by hand is a good way to water small areas conservatively. Photos courtesy of Amy Millard and Think Blue, City of San Diego.

Some customers, termed Super Savers, would not face reduced water allocations if their baseline water use is below a certain monthly level that has not been determined.

As much as 20 percent of residential customers may fall into this criterion.

The key to a rose's ability to withstand reduced water is its root system. Well-established roses, planted in the ground for at least six months, have extensive root systems that require less water to survive.

**What about our roses?** We all know that vibrant rose growth and bloom production are dependent on sufficient water. However, roses are quite resilient and can survive in drought conditions. The key to a rose's ability to withstand reduced

water is its root system. Well-established roses, planted in the ground for at least six months, have extensive root systems that require less water to survive. The roses may bloom well in spring rains and then as available water lessens, they will shut down and not grow or bloom until more water is received. Potted roses, however, lack an extensive root system and must be adequately watered or much of the root system may die.

Small changes like mulching around our plants reduce evaporation and can extend the time between watering. For



*Soil probes take soil samples at depth to help determine the moisture level in the root zone. Dry topsoil but wet root zone shown may not need to be watered. Photos courtesy of Water Right.*

potted roses, using a heavy compact soil may help keep the root system from drying out as quickly. Luckily, there are many other ways to conserve water on our landscaping that could lessen the impact on our roses.

**Where to water.** One way to conserve water is to think more about where we water. In other words, we can prioritize and plan our landscapes so that we use water where it is needed most by the plants we care about most. As rose lovers, we may choose to cut back water-intensive landscape in other areas. Grass is the single biggest outdoor water user and can be replaced in underused areas with drought-tolerant landscaping. If certain roses are constantly underperforming, this might be the time to consider shovel pruning so that there is more water available for the roses that thrive. We may also group higher water-use plants, like roses, together so that our watering is concentrated in smaller areas. Drought tolerant plants could be placed in the rest of the landscape. Another option recommended by Dick Streeper is to plan our shrub bed so that roses give good color in April or early May for the spring bloom. Then, if water must be reduced in the heat of summer, the roses will stop blooming and color can be found from drought-tolerant plantings.

**When to water.** When we water can have a significant impact on water usage. There are a number of methods that can be used independently or together to water only when the plants need it. Soil probes take soil samples at depth to help determine the moisture level in the root zone. Weather-Based Irrigation “Smart” Controllers monitor site conditions such as

rain, temperature or soil moisture to determine when to water. The Watering Calculator is an online tool developed by the city to estimate the right amount of water for our specific landscape or garden every week (<http://www.bewaterwise.com/calculator.html>). The Watering Index is a weekly guide that is published online ([http://www.bewaterwise.com/wat\\_index.html](http://www.bewaterwise.com/wat_index.html)), which



calculates the water budget adjustment percentage for adjustable landscape irrigation controllers. Something as simple

and low-tech as watering early in the day means more water is taken in by the plants and less is lost due to evaporation.

**How to water.** Different water application methods can reduce the amount used. Sprinklers are the least controlled form of watering. They quickly put out lots of water over a wide area and are susceptible to increased water loss from evaporation, wind, and runoff. If sprinklers are used, sprinkler heads can be replaced with rotator nozzles, which distribute water more slowly and more uniformly. Also, it's a good idea to regularly check automated systems to ensure that sprinkler heads aren't broken and that they aren't accidentally watering sidewalks or streets. Drip systems and bubblers are a more concentrated and low-volume method to water specific plants and landscaped areas. Old-fashioned hand watering is a good way to water small areas conservatively.

**Moving forward.** Since over half of the drinking water in San Diego County is used on landscaping, it's clear that we need to reduce our outdoor water use to survive this drought. This is a great opportunity for committed rose growers to discover, implement, and share practical methods to conserve water and keep our roses healthy.

**Resources.** For more information on water conservation, visit these websites: [www.bewaterwise.com](http://www.bewaterwise.com), [www.sandiego.gov/water/conservation](http://www.sandiego.gov/water/conservation), and [www.sdcwa.org](http://www.sdcwa.org)

# Rose Ramblings

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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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## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

MAY 2, 2009

CALIFORNIA COASTAL  
ROSE SHOW  
Carlsbad, CA.  
Info: Sharon McColgan  
(760) 967-3856  
[smccolgan@cox.net](mailto:smccolgan@cox.net)

MAY 3, 2009

PILGRIMAGE TO  
OUTSTANDING  
GARDENS, PUBLIC AND  
PRIVATE  
Info: Ruth Tiffany (619) 548  
6950

MAY 16-17, 2009

WALTER ANDERSEN'S  
NURSERY  
ROSE SHOW  
Poway, CA. 92064  
Info: Marilyn Wojdak  
(619) 561-0451

JUNE 6, 2009

SAN DIEGO ROSE SHOW  
Barona Casino, Convention  
Center  
Info: Linda Clark  
e-mail: [lincline@cox.net](mailto:lincline@cox.net)

JUNE 12 – JULY 5, 2009

FAIR AT DEL MAR  
Info: Jayne Wittevrongel  
(858) 792-4273

OCTOBER 3, 2009

EAST COUNTY ROSE  
SHOW  
Hillsdale Middle School  
El Cajon, CA. 92020  
Info: Sandy Campillo  
Email: [s.campillo@cox.net](mailto:s.campillo@cox.net)  
Kristi Sutherlin  
Email: [ksuthe4197@aol.com](mailto:ksuthe4197@aol.com)

OCTOBER 17 – 18, 2009

L.A. ROSE SOCIETY,  
ROSE SHOW  
AND ROSE FESTIVAL  
Descanso Gardens, La  
Canada, CA  
Info: Alice Hart –  
[foodforfilm@pacbell.net](mailto:foodforfilm@pacbell.net)  
OR Marcia Sanchez-Walsh  
(818) 395-0840

NOVEMBER 11 – 15, 2009

2009 ARS FALL  
NATIONAL  
CONFERENCE  
AND ROSE SHOW.  
Rose Show is Friday, Nov.  
13<sup>th</sup>.  
Doral Desert Princess Resort  
Cathedral City, CA.  
Info: [www.desertrosesociety.com](http://www.desertrosesociety.com)

*Rose! Thou art the sweetest flower  
That ever drank the amber shower;  
Even the Gods, who walk the sky,  
Are amorous of thy scented sigh.  
Thomas Moore*

# Rozluvr's Report

## More Rose Rosettes, Blind Shoots and Short, Thin Stems

By Roger English, President, [rozluvr@cox.net](mailto:rozluvr@cox.net)

**Y**es, you may have these problems also and not realize it. It is far better to closely inspect your roses and correct the problem now if it exists rather than waiting until later when the hot summer sun can damage your roses. Gary Bulman in Escondido and Kristi Sutherlin in El Cajon have both been affected in addition to myself near San Diego State University. I have not yet heard of this occurring close to the coast. If you live near the coast please advise me whether or not this malady is present. The cause is most likely the persistently cold weather in February through mid-March that followed a warm January.

Both my garden and Gary's have had major damage. 85% of my hybrid teas, floribundas, minifloras and miniatures have been afflicted. This is unprecedented in my experience. Previously this has been seen on only two to three hybrid teas a year in my garden of 200 roses. Both Gary and I have had to remove all the foliage from some of the involved plants. Of the hybrid teas, Double Delight, Veterans' Honor and New Zealand are some of those most likely to be victims.

If the abnormalities are only minimal or moderate they are easy to miss. My Black Magic appeared to have plenty of normal canes. Upon close inspection, the uppermost bud eye to which I had pruned was often producing either a short blind shoot or a short, thin stem with a flower bud. The new "normal" canes originated from the next bud eye down and were often growing at an awkward angle. On most canes there were several rose rosettes. These consisted of a grouping of leaves coming out of bud eyes. On some of these rosettes there were extremely short stems with flower buds.

Afflicted floribundas were noted to have many

single blooms rather than the usual sprays. Some were short, thin stems and others were rose rosettes. The canes below were covered with rose rosettes. Miniatures in the ground were hit hard whereas the ones in black pots on my driveway were healthy or were minimally affected. In my opinion this is because the black plastic absorbed the heat and kept the roots warm. Many hybrid teas and floribundas tried to compensate by growing long but spindly new canes usually low on the original cane. However, some of the floribundas in particular have developed robust cane breaks and also some basal breaks.

Correcting the problem is tedious. With hybrid teas and floribundas I first look to see if there is a good bud eye lower on the cane to which I can prune. This is infrequent. I recommend removing all the rose rosettes, short blind stems and short stems with buds with pruners. Yes, this leaves a naked cane. New growth will emerge from the former bud eyes. Select the bud eye you want and rub out the others. If the bud eye is lower on the cane, then prune just above it as you would with winter pruning. Some plants will have a normal stem and bloom but the cane below will have rose rosettes that need to be removed. In the case of blind growth (no bud at end) on a cane of at least ¼ inch diameter, cut back just above a leaf where you can expect new growth to occur.

I have delayed treatment for the miniatures. My rationale is that minis produce lots of new canes after the first bloom and that retaining leaves will increase the number of new canes. Gary has already cleaned up his minis. Since this is a brand new experience for both of us I have no prediction of which method will work best. Check back with us and we will give you our follow-up.

## MEETINGS

AND

## PROGRAMS

**DATE: MAY 18, 2009:** (3rd Monday). Save the date.

**Time and Place:** 6 to 9:00pm in room 101 of the Casa del Prado.

### POTLUCK DINNER AT 6:00PM.

Please bring a dish to share as follows: Last name beginning with

A-G: **Main dish**

H-R: **Salad or side dish**

S-Z: **Dessert**

**BRING YOUR OWN UTENSILS AND A SERVING UTENSIL FOR YOUR SHARED DISH.**

**Program:** Suzanne Horn shares info and photos of English roses.

**Little Rose Show:** 7pm-7:30pm. Bring your blooms to show off!

## David Austin & the Romance of English Roses

The speaker for our May meeting is Suzanne Horn from Glendale, California. Suzanne is a consulting rosarian, a successful exhibitor, an accredited ARS judge, and a popular speaker at meetings and seminars around the district. Suzanne has also had articles published on rose websites and in most major ARS publications, including two annuals.

Suzanne grows about 450 roses of all types, nearly all in pots. About 55 of these are considered "English Roses." These are the most popular of the modern shrub roses and were introduced to American gardens by famed British hybridizer David Austin. Many of us have fallen in love with these romantic, old-style roses and Suzanne's hour-long PowerPoint presentation on the subject is punctuated with hundreds of beautiful photographs.

Suzanne will discuss the history of David Austin Roses and what makes them truly romantic. She will provide descriptive information on their parentage, growth habits and their varied uses in the garden. She will also share information and photos about her favorites among the English Roses for display in the garden, on the show table, and as cut flowers for the home.

Prior to our presentation, we will have our semi-annual potluck dinner. Please bring a dish that will serve eight, along with a serving implement and your own plate and flatware. Drinks will be provided.



Evelyn, Photo by Glenn Fiery



The Squire, Photo by Baldo Villegas

**A**bout

**B**asic

**C**are

## Watering and Insect Problems

By ARS consulting rosarians—  
Gary Bulman, [gossbulman@cox.net](mailto:gossbulman@cox.net)  
Doug Kalal, [kalal5@sbcglobal.net](mailto:kalal5@sbcglobal.net),  
[www.sdgreatgardens.com](http://www.sdgreatgardens.com)  
Roger English, [rozluvr@cox.net](mailto:rozluvr@cox.net)

**Rose Ramblings:** *What method do you use to water your roses and how frequently do you water?*

**Doug:** 65 of my 72 roses are in pots, the other 7 are in raised beds. Because I am constantly moving my plants around for a variety of events, the only way to water my roses is with a garden hose, one at a time. With my hose I give each rose about 15-30 seconds of water. That usually equals about ½” of water in the top of the pot. I do this 3-5 times a week depending on the weather.

**Gary:** My method is one that not many in this area use. Years ago Howard Walters (past president of ARS) wrote articles for the ARS magazine and described his Dramm water system. It works through a system of ½ inch PCV pipe that passes by each rose bush. A hole is drilled into the pipe and a Dramm nozzle is placed in the hole using a rubber washer to insure no leakage occurs. The nozzle is plastic and screws into the pipe and has a pin that fits into the top of the nozzle which determines the amount of water discharged and deflects the water to a round flat radius which covers most of the drip line of the rose. Previously I watered three times a week but now am checking with my soil probe to determine if and when to turn on the water. This allows me to have 20 to 25 Dramm nozzles on each system that is attached to an anti-siphon valve. I have determined how many gallons per minute each system uses by monitoring my water meter. I am able to shut water off to individual roses as needed so am hoping to better utilize my water when rationing is a reality. For those interested I will bring a sample to the May meeting of the SDRS.

**Roger:** My irrigation system was put in by a landscaper and is quite effective. It has an adjustable timing system and four valves in the backyard. I am watering for twelve minutes with each station. The duration of watering is determined with a soil probe. Enough water is given so that it saturates the soil down to 12 to 15 inches. At present I am watering once a week. The frequency will increase with the warmer weather of summer to at least twice a week. The frequency is determined with a soil probe. When the soil 2 to 15 inches below the mulch is only slightly moist it is time to water. The duration will not change unless the soil core is much dryer than usual. When there has been rain or extremely

hot weather then I break out the soil probe to determine if the frequency needs to be adjusted temporarily.

**Rose Ramblings:** *What insect causes the most damage to your roses at this time of year and how do you control it?*

**Doug:** The most annoying insect this year has been the Hoplia Beetle. They are the insects that love to chew up the petals of white and other light colored roses. Hoplia Beetles live as white grubs in the the soil for 2 years and then emerge for 2 months of eating and mating (then they die). The 2 methods I use for control is to squish them with my fingers and to use decoy plants. White Cosmos are a great decoy plant that Hoplias find more attractive than roses. When the beetle lands on the cosmos, they are much easier for predators (such as Goldfinchs – which love Cosmos seeds) to find as well.

**Gary:** Early spring is thankfully pretty much pest free. The exception is the green and brown aphids looking for the tender new growth and buds. In the past I could solve the problem by washing them off with a strong stream of water. Lately, however, the number and strength of these little critters to hang on and/or return to the rose has been difficult to deal with. I have changed my ways and really have started to explore ways to conserve water. In light of this I have decided that with the number and location of my roses it takes too much water to visit each plant several times and deal with aphids. As a result of this dilemma I have resorted to using the least amount of a pesticide to clean them out. At this early date I have only come across one or two rose slugs but am sure that as temperatures warm they will present the next challenge.

**Roger:** Aphids are the most common and cause a fair amount of damage. This year there have been fewer than usual. When a cluster of them is found I bat the stem at the top where they are located back and forth in different directions with my fingers. The few that are left I leave to the ladybugs, their larvae and the hover fly larvae and other aphid predators. I have not been water blasting because I am trying to conserve water.

# SUPER MEMBERSHIPS

All members of the San Diego Rose Society are much appreciated. Special recognition and grateful thanks go to the members below who opted to pay more than necessary to support their rose society.

## **PATRON MEMBERS (\$100)**

Linda Ball  
Steve Berry  
Roger & Madeline English  
George Carter and Mary Jessop  
Alex & Pat Kelley  
Dick & Sue Streeper  
Paula Taylor

## **SUSTAINING MEMBERS (\$50)**

Linda & Harvey Atkinson  
Jack & Joan Biasi  
Casey & Kathryn Blitt  
Norma Brownell  
Patricia Burns  
Kay & Ross Clark  
William L. Clay  
Karen Coleman  
Susan Coleman  
Bill Fox  
Bill & Dottie Hughes  
Shirley & Henry Keener  
Julie Lacina  
Lynn Langley  
Steve Lister  
Henry McAdams  
Sally & Jimmy Moore  
Maria-Elena O'Hara  
Mona & Darrell Oge  
Joan Sieber & Jim Price

Michael Reider  
Susan & Kim Roessler  
Betty Runion  
Moe & Jan Scharff  
Angela & Jim Shelton  
Nancy & Richard Stickler  
Gordon & Katrin Utt

## **SUPPORTING (\$35)**

Jim Alford  
Nancy Bennett  
Lucy Borsenberger  
Mike Bresnahan  
Gary & Sonja Bulman  
hanie MuellerEspeth Cleghorn  
Andrea Collins  
Tad & Jane Cordry  
Marie E. & Marilyn K. Creel  
Dixie Dahl  
Tim Davey  
Doris Engberg  
Robert & Marian Faulk  
Marion E. Froehlich  
Terry & Marie Harris  
Helen & Bill Hillman  
Michael & Jill Holmes  
Pete & Louise Houben  
Ken & Ramona Huff  
Ivan & Barbara Hurlstone  
Dawn & John Isbell  
Dick & Ruth Jackson

Linda Johnson  
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Fides & Andre Kim  
Pamela & Cary King  
Robert & Martha Kolb  
Jeri Kraus  
Patti Kruse  
Pattie & Bret Lobner  
Jim & Sally Long  
Michael & Belle Long  
Yvonne Mao  
Maureen Mason  
Mark Peterson & Step  
Lynn & Penny Naibert  
Mary & Ballir Narang  
Katherine Nowak  
Michael Bishop & Laurie Orange  
Judd & Alba Overgard  
Monica & Patrick Powell  
Carol & Alf Riggs  
Chuck & Joan Riley  
Kirk & Lynn Rummel  
Paul & Jan Schultz  
Jean Swanson  
Chuck & Tally Thompson  
Dr. Bill Wallace  
Virginia & Mark West  
Patricia J. Wiggins  
Carla & Jack Wright  
Harold & Miriam Yoder

*The world is a rose, smell  
it  
and pass it to your  
friends.  
Persian Proverb*

# Getting To Know More About You

## *David Austin's English Roses*

By Dick Streeper, streeper@cox.net

This is the second of a series of four articles about David Austin's English Roses. The first article, "Getting to Know You," spoke of the basics and a description of this class of roses and the description of the Austin family's farming background, and young David's coming of age at the end of World War II on a downsized farm. By the end of this series, some of you will find that you are getting to like this class of roses and hoping that they like you.

In about 1946, David Austin, setting out on his life's career path, decided to devote his substantial inherited landholdings to ornamental horticulture rather than farming. He began growing perennial plants as a crop for sale and the hobby-breeding of "old

garden roses" (OGRs), that is, roses that were popular in the centuries past before the hybrid teas were developed. OGRs were just beginning to become popular once again. Their popularity was somewhat limited because although the blooms were attractive and fragrant, many types lacked vigor or were susceptible to fungus diseases. At the same time that hybrid teas were queens of the flower world, floribundas, followed by grandifloras and miniatures, were just getting started. Most every year saw improvements in colors, plant vigor, disease resistance, and plant size and habit of growth. These new types were generally called "modern roses." David Austin's goal in breeding from the beginning was to put the attractive qualities of OGR blooms onto plants with the various improved plant-growth qualities of modern roses. Even the most casual examination reveals his success.

In the United Kingdom (UK) as well as in Western Europe in the 20<sup>th</sup> century, family ties were important. If you wanted to become a rose nurseryman, it was helpful if

your father and your grandfather had first established the rose nursery you intended to operate. There were several rose nurseries in the UK that met that criterion and David Austin did not. He was not one of the "good old boys." And this neophyte rose grower had the audacity to name his hybrid crosses of OGRs with modern roses "English Roses" and to charge just a slightly higher royalty

than was usually charged for plant propagation rights in England. Did that set him back? You be the judge. In short order he was installed into the Order of the British Empire by the Queen, awarded the Victoria Medal of Honor by the Royal Horticultural Society, and the Dean Hole Medal which is the highest award granted by the

Royal National Rose Society of England. His roses have won numerous gold medals at the Chelsea Flower Shows and awards from the Royal National Rose Society.

Needless to say, roses became an important part of David Austin's life. Forty years ago, in 1969, he decided to devote his full time to the breeding and growing roses for sale, and twelve years later, David Austin Roses was recognized in Bev Dobson's *Combined Rose List 1981* by being included in the elite group of sixty-nine major rose nurseries existent in the world.

His leading reputation in both England and the United States was established in 1983 with the introduction of the yellow climber, Graham Thomas. It is a vigorous plant, grown in many places as a climber to ten feet. It has pure yellow blooms and in England it won the prestigious James Mason award in 2000 from the Royal National Rose Society. It has been a strong seller worldwide from introduction to this day.



*Molineux is the winner of the President's International Trophy which was awarded by the Royal National Rose Society for the best new rose introduced in England in 1996. Photo courtesy of Rich Baer.*



A limited selection of David Austin's roses have been licensed for production, sale, and are sold in the United States by Jackson & Perkins, Wayside Gardens, and Regan Nurseries as well as several other major mail-order rose specialists in the U. S. He has established a fully integrated growing and sale operation in the United States in Tyler Texas that includes a mail-order business. The catalog and company e-mail contacts are [www.davidaustinroses.com](http://www.davidaustinroses.com) and US@davidaustinroses.com.

How should you determine what roses to plant in your garden? David Austin English Roses grow quite differently in the United States than they do in England. The same is true of most of the rose varieties bred and introduced in England and Europe. In response to this phenomenon, several test gardens for David Austin roses have been established in the U. S., including one I have

been privileged to work with at the Barona Ranch Resort in Lakeside, California. The test garden is a part of a rose garden on the property that is the equal of any in the United States. We have also just planted a hedge of 130 David Austin English Roses in the Inez Grant Parker Memorial Rose Garden in Balboa Park. The planting was created as a memorial to Jean Kenneally, for many years the dean of roses in San Diego and a member of the San Diego Rose Society committee that founded the rose garden. The hedge covers the eastern side of the entire garden along the rim of Florida Canyon. The garden is located on Park Boulevard just north of the Naval Hospital. Come to either or both of these gardens and find the fine David Austin English Roses that will appeal to you in your home garden.

## TWO Nearby Rose Conventions in 2009

By Sue Streeper, [streeper@cox.net](mailto:streeper@cox.net)

Only once in several years do we on the west coast have the good fortune to have a national rose convention conveniently located nearby. But this is a banner year. In June, there is a WORLD rose convention in Vancouver, British Columbia, and in November, there is an American Rose Society convention in Palm Springs, California. Both should be on your wish list of soon-to-be travels.

The World Federation of Rose Societies is sponsoring the Vancouver event from June 18 to 24. The convention includes the American Rose Society spring convention as well as a three-day World Rose Festival from June 19 to 21. The festival includes a large rose show and many displays from commercial exhibitors. Elaborate details of the convention and rose show, including registration forms, can be found at [www.worldrosefestival.com](http://www.worldrosefestival.com).

Everybody reading this article should go to the festival website and navigate through its many pages to find out all the necessary information about the Vancouver event. Participating in the whole convention is pricey, but there are many options to consider. One of them is to exhibit roses in the rose show, which requires no cost at all. Granted, you will have to transport yourself and your roses to the show by car or combination of air and car. Consider flying to Seattle and renting a car for the four-hour drive to Canada. You will need a passport to return to the U.S. The convention hotel is the Westin Bayshore (expensive), but there are multiple less expensive options in downtown Vancouver. In order to visit the rose festival (includes rose show for three days), you should buy the \$49 pass (turns out to be \$40 U.S. if you pay by credit card).

According to the website, the week-long world convention includes many lectures and tours as well as the three-day festival (rose show, displays, and vendors). Registering for the convention is one option. Registering as an exhibitor at the rose show is another. To do the latter, go to the website mentioned above, click on "rose show," then click on "exhibiting in rose show."

Then, after you return to San Diego having had a great time in Canada, turn your thoughts to going to Palm Springs in November. For us so nearby, it's a no-brainer to get ourselves to the desert for the fall American Rose Society (ARS) convention. The Desert Rose Society folks are calling this the ARS 2009 Fall National Conference and Rose Show. Specifically, it's "A 'Date' in Palm Springs," November 11 to 15. In addition to the rose show, there will be tours to private and public gardens, lectures, and a post-conference Ikebana workshop. The conference hotel is the Doral Desert Princess Resort Palm Springs which has arranged a special rate for attendees. For all the details, go to [www.desertrosesociety.com/whats-new/a-date-in-palm-springs.html](http://www.desertrosesociety.com/whats-new/a-date-in-palm-springs.html).

# Rose of the Month:

## FRENCH LACE

By Maggi Jensen, [rosecat@cox.net](mailto:rosecat@cox.net)

In 1985, while riding on a San Diego City school bus, I began a long romance after seeing my first glimpse of French Lace.

Curious about the intriguing cream-colored flowers, at lunch I shepherded my fifth-grade students to the Inez P. Grant Rose Garden. To my astonishment, the flowers were called floribunda roses, something I had never seen

before. To me, roses were bright red, thornless, grew on long stems, and were purchased at a florist shop. The "floribunda" word was rather easy to understand because I had studied Latin in high school.

When one first views an Old Masters painting, the color experience is similar to when first seeing

French Lace. The satiny ivory-colored blossoms tinged with apricot, warm honey, or peach are reminiscent of Victorian lace. I have five vintage bushes (one planted in 1986) in my small coastal garden and would grow

25 more bushes if I had the space.

Veteran or novice rose admirers should grow French Lace. This three- to four-foot rosebush produces clean clusters or one bloom per stem of flawless classic shaped hybrid tea-type flowers. Besides the mild clover perfume, the dark holly green leaves, and the ability to continually bloom all season, French Lace will



*FRENCH LACE F, white, 30-40 petals, 1981. Photo by Dr. B*

grow well in either shade or sun, loves the beach as well as inland, is extremely disease resistant to rust and powdery mildew and has won the 1982 AARS and 1984 Portland Gold Medal awards. WHAT A ROSE!

P.S.  
Playing in my garden this morning, I discovered

many differently colored aphids snacking on all of the new spring growth. The only roses that were aphid free were my five French Lace, along with two camellia plants.



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