



# Rose Ramblings

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

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JUNE 2009

## GETTING TO LIKE YOU

### David Austin's English Roses

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

This is the third of a series of four articles about David Austin's English Roses. In the first two installments we learned about the man who created them, what he intended to do, what distinguishes his roses from other types of roses, and the development of David Austin English Roses in England. In this part we will consider what should first be done and not done in the United States if you are getting to like them.

The first item to consider if you are getting to like English Roses is how to use them in a garden design, that is, where do they belong in a home garden and how should they be spaced? We tend to plant and train modern roses, that is, hybrid teas and the like, to grow upright and most commonly each plant stands alone. English Roses look best, in my opinion, if they are planted close together. They can be planted as single specimens separated from other roses, or with similar effect using three or four plants of the same variety planted close together as three spokes of a wheel or three spokes plus

a fourth of the same variety in the position of an axle of the wheel. They can also be planted single file in a straight or serpentine line about two to three feet apart, with most canes permitted to grow long and woven together to create a hedge. They will also go nicely with carefully selected annuals, perennials, or shrubs but I

recommend that you not try this until you are familiar with the use of English Roses as well as the annuals or perennials you intend to use in the same beds. If you are looking for ideas of garden design, visit the David Austin English Rose trial garden at the Barona Ranch Resort in Lakeside, California, and the display of David Austin roses lining the east side of the Inez Grant Parker Rose Garden in Balboa Park.



The popular English Rose shrub variety, Gertrude Jekyll, is shown in the author's home garden trained as a climber on a trellis six feet wide and ten feet tall. The rose has the ability to cover a much larger trellis if desired. The blooms are attractive and among the most fragrant in existence. Photo by Dick Streeper.

As interest grows you will need to know which varieties to plant in your garden. It is always best to base your selection upon what you have seen growing in the ground in an area similar to your garden. For those in San Diego, that would include Barona and Balboa Park. You will find a large collection growing at the Huntington Library close by Pasadena, California. The garden curator there, Clair Martin, knows Austin roses and has written a soft-cover book entitled *100 English Roses for the American Garden*.

For your home library, the best place to start is the USA Edition of *David*

*Austin's Handbook of Roses 2009* available free by contacting [www.davidaustinroses.com](http://www.davidaustinroses.com). The handbook has good color photos of blooms of all of the roses for sale in the United States. It also contains color pictures

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of the shrub habits of many of the best varieties grown for garden effect. For those interested in the last word in print publication, buy *The English Roses*, published by Timber Press in 2008.

For those growing English Roses in frost-free gardens in the Pacific Southwest, hard pruning should be avoided. Some varieties such as Gertrude Jekyll

plant with color. That effect will never be seen if the plants are trained and cut in the style of modern roses. Remember that short twiggy wood will produce few good blooms. Thin rapidly growing canes are golden because they will produce lots of lateral growth filled with blooms.

David Austin has recently established a marketing



*This photo taken in mid-May 2009 shows the north end of the David Austin Test Garden at the Barona Ranch Resort where this past winter multiple copies of twenty-three rose varieties were added around a newly constructed gazebo. Photo by Dick Streeper.*

and Graham Thomas can grow canes fifteen feet long or longer. That means that they grow well trained as climbers, but that's not all. They can be grown as shrubs. However, Graham Thomas tends to have blooms that nod toward the ground, an asset for a climber and a liability as a shrub. Many Austins will produce fairly thin canes more than six feet in length. They can be effectively trained close to a horizontal direction and woven within three feet from the ground with adjacent plants, held in place mostly by their prickles. In many areas the plants will have four flushes of growth and blooms each year. Blooms will form on upright-growing laterals. In that style blooms can effectively cover the

and sales organization in Tyler, Texas. Roses sold here are grown under contract in Texas. It is hard to get reliable up-to-date production and sales data from the U. S. rose industry but I see a huge decline in rose production in the U. S. and I sense growing strength in production and sales of English Roses. A part of this trend is the creation of several new public David Austin English Rose test gardens throughout the United States. No other rose producer in the U. S. has ever had the confidence to support regional public rose trial gardens devoted exclusively to their roses. It's hard to say where this will lead but it's fair to say, "The British are coming," and this time they will be welcome. And their roses may grace your garden before long.



# Rose Ramblings

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San Diego Rose Society, Inc.

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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

JUNE 6, 2009

SAN DIEGO ROSE SHOW  
Barona Casino, Convention  
Center

Info: Linda Clark

(619) 312-2468

e-mail: [linsline@cox.net](mailto:linsline@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)

### Rozluvr's Report

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

Our eleventh SDRS pilgrimage was a wonderful event. Our leader, Ruth Tiffany, deserves a lot of credit for a well-organized rose tour. Her infectious enthusiasm contributed to the ambience. Marmalade Skies, a floribunda, has been on my list of roses that I might want to buy for quite some time. After seeing this rose at Descanso Gardens it is now on my "must have" list. We stopped at Plant World just north of Escondido where several SDRS members bought one or more roses. Unfortunately, they were sold out of Marmalade Skies. While traveling between public rose gardens Dick Streeper added to our enjoyment by telling us about the history of each garden. Our final visit was to Gary and Sonja Bulman's garden in Escondido where we were made welcome with wonderful refreshments. They have about 350 beautiful roses in addition to citrus trees, kiwi vines and many other interesting plants. If you ever have an opportunity, don't miss a chance to see the Bulmans' garden.

Since Gary retired about a year ago he has added many more roses. Most of these are on Fortuniana rootstock from K&M Nursery in Mississippi, <http://www.kandmroses.com/index.htm>. Roses grafted on Fortuniana in general grow larger than on their own roots or on the Dr. Huey rootstock available from Weeks and J&P. There are several outstanding grafted roses that are available on Fortuniana that are not found in local nurseries. These include Cajun Moon, Cajun Sunrise, Hot Princess, Desperado and Marlon's Day. Some of these can be purchased via the Internet on their own root or on Canadian multiflora rootstock but in my opinion the ones from K&M on Fortuniana are much more vigorous.

There is more follow-up information on roses with short, thin stems and rose rosettes. Note: this is not rose rosette disease which occurs in the East. I have received two reports of this occurring on the coast. The most commonly affected cultivar is Veterans' Honor. Both Bob Kolb and I have had some hybrid teas where the short, thin stems have recurred although not as severe as previously. In my garden the floribundas are making a good, but not excellent recovery. Many of my hybrid teas have recovered only fairly well at this time. Many of the miniatures have produced new, sturdy canes and I'm hoping for more. Eventually I will probably need to deal with the short, thin stems and those canes covered with rose rosettes on the miniatures.

## MEETINGS

AND

## PROGRAMS

**DATE: JUNE 15, 2009:** (3rd Monday). Save the date.

**Time and Place:** 7:30 to 9:00pm in room 101 of the Casa del Prado.

**Program:** Dr. Joel Ross will speak on propagating roses.



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

## “Asexual Propagation of Roses” by Joel Ross M.D., Consulting Rosarian

This talk and demonstration will survey some of the methods by which rose plants may be multiplied asexually. It will deal in depth with multiplication of “cuttings” with a discussion of selection of potting material, preparation of plant material, hormonal manipulations to improve “take” percentages, use of individual greenhouses for environmental control while awaiting root growth, light temperature and water needs while awaiting root growth and “hardening off” when the plant material has matured sufficiently to be removed from the greenhouse environment. The favorite alternate measures utilized by rosarians who are quite successful at propagation will be compared and contrasted. A very basic description of budding technique will also be described and illustrated, concentrating on “T” graft technique in order to present a fuller picture of the variety of methods available for asexual propagation.

Joel has been growing roses since 1997 and has approximately 400 plants at present in his Rancho Santa Fe home garden both in ground and in pots.

Joel is an American Rose Society consulting rosarian, recipient of the ARS Bronze Medal, and member of the California Coastal Rose Society since 1998. In that society, he has been president and is currently co-vice president, director of Rose-a-holics, and co-director of the annual rose plant auction.

## Roger Wins Writing Awards

Congratulations to Roger English who won two American Rose Society Awards of Merit for articles written in 2008 *Rose Ramblings* issues. In the May newsletter, he wrote about “Microclimate and Sun Exposure Effects on Roses.” In September, his article was “Predators and Parasitoids in Your Rose Garden.” Roger has written many *Rose Ramblings* articles over the years, including his current president’s column, “Rozlvr’s Report.”

## Rose Show Time Is Now!

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

Now is the time to be checking out all the beautiful blooms in your garden and deciding which ones will be at the perfect stage to go to the rose show June 6. There is a place for all types whether your favorites are hybrid teas, floribundas, miniatures, or climbers. Rose arrangements will feature the show theme, “Roses at the Ranch.”

Linda Clark, rose show chairman, announces that Barona Valley Resort is ready for an invasion of rose exhibitors, judges, and visitors to this first-time-ever rose show at their convention center. Exhibitors will be on site from 6:30 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. grooming their roses to look their best. The public will be welcomed from noon to 6 p.m. Tickets are \$5.00 at the door, with children under 12 admitted free. Parking is free and abundant.

San Diego Rose Society members have a variety of ways to support the show. Many have bought pre-sale tickets to distribute to friends and family, and many have contributed to the trophy fund. There is still time to help in numerous ways: setting up the show on Friday, June 5, volunteering for clerking or placement duties, leading tours to the Barona rose garden during show hours, staying Saturday night to celebrate the show and cleaning up on Sunday morning. Contact Linda Clark at [lineline@cox.net](mailto:lineline@cox.net) or at 619-312-2468.

To check on all the details necessary for entering roses in the show, go to [www.sdrosesociety.org](http://www.sdrosesociety.org) and click on rose show, then click on schedule. Your roses are waiting for their chance to show off!

**A**bout

**B**asic

**C**are

## Approach to Powdery Mildew and Ways to Summer Feeding

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)  
Patti Vickery, [pattiv2535@gmail.com](mailto:pattiv2535@gmail.com)

**Rose Ramblings:** *When June gloom rolls in, it is usually followed by the return of powdery mildew on roses.*

*What do you recommend for preventing this disease and if it comes back how do you remove it?*

**Gary:** Powdery mildew may be dealt with by being faithful to your spraying schedule. Prevention is the only way to keep this fungus off your roses. All the chores that need to be done in a garden may be put off for a week or two with the exception of your spraying a fungicide. I keep a note in my calendar on the date I sprayed and what I used. My routine is to spray every other week alternating between Compass and Banner Maxx which are both available from Rosemania.com. Fungus builds up an immunity to a certain fungicide after repeated use so it is important to alternate your spray program no matter what your choice of product. My belief is that once powdery mildew is established, it is almost impossible to rid the plant of it. If you miss a week or two continue to spray in order to treat new growth on your plants. Rosemania also carries a product called Erase but to my knowledge it is ineffective in removing powdery mildew once established.

**Patti:** I live about a mile from Mission Bay and three miles from the ocean and I have very little powdery mildew in my garden. I wash off the leaves early in the morning with the garden hose. My roses get good wind circulation and that helps also, since I never spray with any fungicides. The best prevention is selecting roses that are not susceptible to mildew and shovel prune those that are. My one exception is Mister Lincoln, which is my favorite rose. I probably water the foliage more on that bush and seldom see any mildew.

**Doug:** In addition to the wonderful products mentioned by Gary and the use of water stated by Patti, I also recommend keeping the middle of the bush clear of small nuisance foliage that will clog up air flow. Poor air circulation in a rose bush will lead to not only powdery mildew, but rust and insect problems. By removing

small shoots & leaves in the middle of the bush, air, water and beneficial organisms can help keep your bush clean.

**Rose Ramblings:** *Do you feed your roses anything different in the summer as compared to your spring feeding program?*

**Gary:** Yes. At the end of the first bloom cycle I distribute organic Ada Perry (available from Walter Andersen Nursery) to most of my bushes at the recommended two and one-half cups per large bush. I am still experimenting with miniature roses growing in seven-gallon squat pots and am presently going with one-half cup every couple of weeks. I also switch from one tablespoon of ammonium sulfate to one tablespoon of urea once a week. I broadcast this close to the bush and water it in. I also find it good to use a teaspoon of Shultz Bloom Plus plant food (10-54-10) to encourage richer colors and better blooms. This was recommended by Phil Ash during one of our early morning talks at the Del Mar Fair while preparing our roses for entry. It is always prudent to water prior to fertilization in order to protect the fine feeder roots just below your mulch and soil.

**Patti:** My spring feeding program consists of alternating with Ada Perry's fertilizer, alfalfa meal and cottonseed meal. In the summer I will use fish emulsion alternating with E.B. Stone's organic rose fertilizer. I also spread worm castings in July. I usually don't fertilize again until September. With our water being rationed this summer, I will let my roses take a rest during the hot days and mulch more.

**Doug:** In addition to the products mentioned, I like to use Best Paks (5-7 per mature bush) sold at Miramar Wholesale Nursery, and Gro-Power. Both of these products are slow-release fertilizers that complement Ada Perry quite nicely.



# Pilgrimage Pluses

By Paula Taylor, [pataylor@san.rr.com](mailto:pataylor@san.rr.com)

**W**e were promised a rose garden and we got it... four times over. The San Diego Rose Society 11<sup>th</sup> Modern Pilgrimage to visit notable rose gardens was a blooming success. Forty devoted rosarians made the trek on Sunday, May 3, to view three gardens in Los Angeles and one society member's garden in Escondido.

Past president Ruth Tiffany coordinated the one-day journey, which encompassed a visit to Descanso Gardens, Rose Hills Memorial Park, Exposition Park, and the Bulman residence. Each location offered a unique layout and captivated the interest of novice and expert alike. Remarks ranged from "ooh and aah" to "If they can do that, just think what I can do." The beautiful day brought out the inner-optimist in everyone as rose enthusiasts strolled through the natural, varied setting at Descanso and the formal settings at Rose Hills and Exposition Park. There was a Monet-like Impressionist feeling with the Descanso display as the roses blended together creating a lovely landscape. Rose Hills and

Exposition Park were more like a quilt design with entire beds filled with identical varieties, their boundaries neatly separated by walkways and grassy paths.

Travelers recouped their energy on the ride back to San Diego and set out with new enthusiasm when the bus stopped at Plant World Nursery in Escondido, where several "must have" roses were purchased. Before riding off into the sunset dreaming of where next year's pilgrimage might take us, the rose lovers were treated to one more stop at Gary and Sonja Bulman's Escondido rose garden. Gary and Sonja were on hand to show their prize-winning roses and to explain their rose cultivation program. Guests munched on snacks as they meandered through the rows of roses in the cool refreshing garden and made a mental note to sign up early for next year's trip.

*We were promised a rose garden and we got it... four times over.*



*Playboy. One of thousands enjoyed at the pilgrimage. Photo by Paula Taylor.*



*Two Flower Girl tree roses form an umbrella at Rose Hills. Photo by Paula Taylor.*



*Ruth Tiffany at Descanso Gardens checks out potential additions to her garden. Photo by Paula Taylor.*

See **Pilgrimage Pluses**, page 7





*Sue Streeper and Kathy Strong stroll through Descanso. Photo by Paula Taylor*



*Rose Wrangler Al & Lana Heck. Photo by Paula Taylor.*



*Rose "Pilgrims" admire the Bulman exhibition of roses. Photo by Paula Taylor.*

*Remarks ranged from "ooh and aah" to "If they can do that, just think what I can do."*

# ROSE OF THE MONTH—GEMINI

By Marla Skeen-Wasson, [mailto.thewasson@cox.net](mailto:mailto.thewasson@cox.net)

**M**y first exposure to Gemini was the spring of 2002 while going to get some much needed supplies for the garden. When you are a rose lover, who can resist looking? Intrigued by the name “Gemini,” I had to have a second look since it was my birth astrology sign. What I saw was a container photo of a rose almost porcelain looking, with a creamy center which turned into a brilliant coral edge. Those were some of my favorite colors. Well then, I moved onto the specifications: hybrid tea up to five feet tall; resistant to mildew, black spot and rust; mild sweet fragrance, deep-colored foliage.

That was it, she was in my basket! Of course I was smiling to myself since we had “finished” the planting in the yard and there was no room for another rose. At least that is what had been suggested at the time by my late husband Richard. When did that stop anyone who loved roses?

So as I was finishing my shopping, I was plotting in my mind the possibilities....excuses as to why I purchased yet another rose....Let's see! I could replace one that wasn't doing well. I could choose to put a smaller one into a patio pot to secure her place in one of the beds due to her large size. I could.....,

well, you know, I had plenty of time while I drove home to come up with a plan.

Lucky for me. After I walked in the house and showed her picture to my husband, I didn't need a plan. He agreed it would be a wonderful addition to our garden. In fact, after careful inspection the plant was such a hardy choice that I was sent back for an additional two plants within the next few days, while a new bed was dug just for their new home.

I have not at all been disappointed. The plants are prolific still after several years and show no signs of failure. There are no signs of disease, and they produce constantly so I am able to share blooms with friends on a regular basis.

The ovoid pointed blossoms are four to five inches with 25 petals. The stems are from eighteen to twenty inches. The total package gives plenty of results for exhibition. Gemini was an All America Rose Selection (AARS) winner in 2000, followed by winning the American Rose Society Members' Choice Award in 2005. Parentage is Anne Morrow Lindbergh and New Year, bred in the United States by Dr. Keith W. Zary. It was introduced in 1999 by Bear Creek Gardens.



*GEMINI HT, pink blend, 25-30 petals,  
Photo courtesy of All America Rose Selections.*



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EXCHANGE**

The award-winning journal of San Diego Rose Society, published eleven times per year in full color, is offered free of charge. It is offered online (about 9 MB per copy) only to newsletter editors of all ARS affiliated rose societies in exchange for correspondent's newsletter. Your reciprocal distribution may be by mail or internet. Contact Manuel M. Belandres, M.D., Editor, at [mdbel@sbcglobal.net](mailto:mdbel@sbcglobal.net)



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