



THE ROSE BEACON

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I couldn't believe my eyes, I thought that I was at a small wedding or graduation party. The LCRS should have awarded prizes for the best dressed female and male rosarians. I would have voted for those five guys with ties, congratulations to their better halves. Tom Noonan, one of our Photo Contest judges this year, gave our members a very informative and understandable presentation concerning improving the quality our camera techniques. Thank you Tom, and thanks Julie for arranging such a fine speaker.

Did anyone notice the quote from Mother Theresa that was mentioned on page C5 of the February 12 edition of the Cape Cod Times? "God doesn't look at how much we do, but with how much love we do it." I realize that Mother Theresa was talking about more worldly matters, and how we react towards our immediate families, our communities, and on a larger scale, towards those less fortunate than us. But, I thought of each of our members, with gardens small or large, and the attitudes that we bring to our roses.

Rose growing is a hobby, and I hope that it brings you great joy. The parties, luncheons and picnics are nice, but rose growing is the main focus of the Lower Cape Rose Society. Spring is right around the corner. You should be thinking about buying a few new roses; checking your gloves, pruners and saws: going into the garden to examine and prune your existing roses: and roses, roses, roses. At the regular LCRS meeting, March 20, we will be "getting ready". We will spend time indoors, illustrating the proper pruning techniques, sharpening pruners, detailing the various fertilizing and disease prevention products, and discussing what we should be doing in our gardens. The following week, it's on to The Taunton Holiday Inn for the annual Yankee District Spring Convention, March 26-28. Who belongs to the Yankee District? You and you and you, and every rose society member in Connecticut, Rhode Island, New Hampshire, Maine and the rest of Massachusetts. This is a great chance to meet rosarians from outside the Cape, people who you will look forward to seeing year after year. Friday evening always features a gala hospitality room with hours of socializing and plenty of rose talk. Expert speakers begin their informative and interesting garden presentations at 9am and the rose day finally winds down around 4pm. A happy hour and dinner await you in the main ballroom with a featured speaker, followed by the District awards (Greg Davis received The Outstanding Judge Award, last year) and a rose auction, then back to the hospitality room! Why are you waiting? I will have details on how to register for the Convention and the Holiday Inn. Many of our members will be there to welcome you. Finally, on a sad note, Frank Benardella passed from this life on January 30. Frank was a world class hybridizer (Leading Lady, Kristin, Black Jade, Baby Boomer, etc,etc), but he was much more than that. Frank was a Past President of the ARS, but he was much more than that. Frank was a winner of many awards at National Rose Shows, but he was much more than that. Audrey and I became friends with Frank through The Garden State Rose Club in New Jersey, and because of him we developed a true love of roses. Frank had so much rose knowledge, and also the grace never to talk down to a novice with the most elementary question. His life's work truly left a positive mark on the world. When someone at the funeral was asked how they knew Frank, they mentioned that they were neighbors and knew him as a friendly, kind and honest man, enough said.



NEXT MEETING DATE OF THE LOWER CAPE ROSE SOCIETY: MARCH 20, 2010 10AM

HARWICH COMMUNITY CENTER 100 OAK STREET, HARWICH, MA

Our hospitality duo, Juell & Ann Marie have asked me to remind members that the goodie table

for the March meeting will be supplied by members whose last name begins with the letters

M-Z





HAVE YOUR PRUNERS SHARPENED AT THE MARCH MEETING. GET YOUR TOOLS TOGETHER TO BE READY FOR THE UPCOMING ROSE SEASON!

BY AUDREY OSBORN



Clean the blades of substances that may clog your file. Use a rag dampened with sap and rust remover to lift rust, sap and dirt. Mineral oil also is effective at wiping off sap.

Examine your blades. It's important to maintain the right angle of the beveled edge of the pruner blades so they make the appropriate contact with the plant and each other. Only the outside edge of bypass pruners need to be sharpened. Check for nicks, chips and any other uneven spaces that may need to be filed down.

Sharpen your blades. A variety of whetstones and sharpeners work for pruner blades, but a diamond file is best for particularly hard

metal. If you use a freehand file, make sure you are sharpening at an appropriate angle. A vice may be used to keep your pruners still as you sharpen. Some sharpeners are made specifically to hold your pruner and guide the file along its blades. Run the file along the beveled edge of the blade, not across it.

SHARPENING TOOLS



BUS RIDE TO PORTSMOUTH, NEW HAMPSHIRE! VISIT FOUR GARDENS! JUNE 15,

Bus leaves from Harwich with additional pick-up at the Sagamore Bridge

\$25/per person - Deluxe Coach



Sign up soon for the bus. Bring your check for \$25 made payable to LCRS to the next meeting.

Bring your lunch - or have lunch in a restaurant in Portsmouth.

DON'T FORGET THE LOWER CAPE ROSE SOCIETY PLANT SALE MAY 29TH, 2010. START DIVIDING SOME PERENNIALS FOR THE SALE NOW!



Lee Tanner



Eileen & John Flood



June Anderson



Jane & Al Brier



Jeannine Vandal



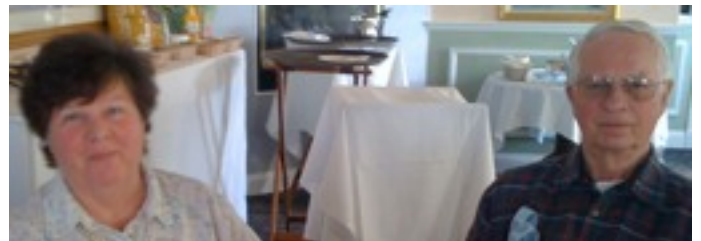
Walter & Alice Paroby



Tom Noonan & Kathleen Casey



Margaret MacAskill
Jane Akeson
Bob Severson



Laurel & Ron Swanson



Diane Goers



Oz presents Al Brier with the Bronze Medal for outstanding service to the Lower Cape Rose Society

SOMETHING NEW AND SOMETHING EXCITING PLANNED FOR THE LOWER CAPE ROSE SOCIETY MEMBERS & GUESTS

At the March 20th meeting:

We will review the fundamentals of pruning roses - or if you are new to caring for roses, we can offer Rose Pruning 101 which will teach what we should be doing in the rose garden now. Bring your pruners in to be sharpened. All this is in preparation for our **April 3rd meeting** when we will prune the Millie & Tip O'Neill Rose Garden here at the Harwich Community Center, then come inside to enjoy a Chili Cook-Off followed by a Rose Auction.

The LCRS will furnish beverages to be served with the Chili and Cornbread. Bring in a crockpot of chili to be shared with members or perhaps bake some cornbread to go with the chili.

The Rose Auction is a great way to try new roses at an incredible price. Roses are donated by national growers and this will be a fundraiser for our society. Come join the fun, bring a friend or neighbor. Guests are always welcome.



SMOKIN HOT ROSES





LCRS BUS RIDE: June 15, 2010 \$25/PER PERSON (BRING YOUR CHECK TO March MEETING)

1. Fuller Gardens, North Hampton NH

Fuller Gardens is one of the last working turn-of-the-century estate gardens left in the Northeast. Once an ornament to Alvan T. Fuller's summer home, the grounds were designed in the Colonial Revival style by noted landscape architect Arthur Shurtleff, with additions in the 1930's by the Olmstead Brothers.

Over 2,000 roses of many varieties bloom throughout the summer, with unusual and eye catching annual displays, English style perennial plantings, a hosta display garden, a tropical/desert conservatory and a Japanese garden and Koi pond are all within the sculpted hedges of this seaside gem. Call or visit the website for our special event schedule. The Gardens and gift shop are open mid-May through mid-October.



2. The Moffatt-Ladd House and Garden

(1763) is a National Historic Landmark and has been open to the public as a historic house museum since 1912. One of America's finest Georgian mansions, the house was built for merchant John Moffatt between 1760 and 1763. During the Revolution, it was the home of General William Whipple, one of New Hampshire's three signers of the Declaration of Independence and his wife Katharine Moffatt Whipple. In 1817 the house passed to John Moffatt's great granddaughter, Maria Tufton Haven Ladd. Her son, Alexander Hamilton Ladd, lived in the house from 1862 until his death in 1900. The house is furnished to showcase its original features and to reflect its use as a private home from 1763 through 1900.

The Garden was laid out in its present form by Alexander Hamilton Ladd in the late nineteenth century. His daily records reveal that he obtained plants from the gardens of his mother and grandmother and that he was an enthusiastic bulb gardener.

A 300-foot axis path flanked by formal gardens leads from the house up four terraces to a wrought-iron gate at the rear boundary. Grass steps lead to the upper flower beds.

An English damask rose planted in 1768 by Sarah Catherine Mason Moffatt and the enormous horse chestnut tree planted in 1776 by General William Whipple upon his return from signing the Declaration of Independence can still be seen today. The horse chestnut tree was designated the Millennium Landmark Tree for the State of New Hampshire in 2000, and is on the National Register of Historic Trees.



3. PRESCOTT PARK

Located at the edge of the Piscataqua River and across from [Strawbery Banke Museum](#), Prescott Park was donated to the city of Portsmouth around the turn of the century by two sisters, Josie and Sarah Prescott. The popular waterfront park features extensive flower gardens, including large demonstration beds where many varieties of flowers are shown each summer. The park also is the site of one of New England's most popular outdoor summer events, the Prescott Park Arts Festival, which during July and part of August presents a musical and dozens of performances by musicians and theater groups. Since 1974 the festival has drawn more than 9 million visitors for productions from "Annie" to "The Wizard of Oz."

Location: Marcy Street, Portsmouth, NH

GROWING ROSES ON CAPE COD

By: Al & Jane Brier

When Jane and I lived in New Jersey (1969-2000) we never “hilled” our 50+ rosebushes. We placed a “snow fence” about the rose gardens, on the west and north sides - to break the fierce winds coming from those directions.

Then sometime in January - snow or no, on a mild, windless day - regardless of the temperature, I would perform the annual ritual of pruning the “then dormant” plants. They have no feelings when they are dormant - lose no vital “juices” - they wouldn’t even recognize a dull pruner if you used one!

High-pruning of the most robust plants protected them from the soon-to-occur March winds, and tying together the long canes of “old garden plants” protected them from damage. Remember, most of the “old garden” variety plants yield their blooms on “last year’s growth” so you must carefully select which you do, and what you do! Careful labeling, or diagrams of your gardens plantings come in handy when the labels are under the snow!

Sure, we lost a few over our 30 years, but never many in one year. My theory was any bush can be pruned with a spade, but not before the time came that it was too late in the season to plant its replacement. I must say, when we sold and moved in the Spring of 2000 to Cape Cod, some 60% of our plantings had been done in the ‘70s - and still thrived.

Planting roses here on Cape Cod was a whole different situation, sand is much easier to remove than New Jersey shale. Year-round temperatures are different, and more wind exists here. Then, there are the ubiquitous pine trees/needles to provide shade and pickel the planting areas.

Lower Cape Rose Society has been a blessing when it came to re-educating these New Jersey rose growers. However, some things haven’t changed too much. White Dawn (lc) Tropicana, Peace (our favorite) and Frau Karl Druschki, as well as Madame Alfred Carriere are yet found in our gardens - along with some other more recent creations.

Relocating to Cape Cod, we always dreamed of growing roses around our house that we dreamed. The Lower Cape Rose Society taught us how to make the transition. It’s been a wonderful experience.





April Is the Time to Prepare for June Rose Exhibition

By John Mattia

Don't wait until the middle of June to consider preparing your roses to enter them in the 2010 roseshow of the Lower Cape Rose Society on June 27 this year. Successful exhibitors begin their plans to enter a June roseshow when they unhill their roses in late March or early April. Roses need help to exhibit their beauty in the top form at roseshow. The preparation for exhibiting should begin when pruning roses in the early spring. Conventional pruning techniques work for garden and exhibition display for most variety of roses. However, for the special one-stem beauties such as minis, minifloras, and hybrid teas, consideration when pruning in early spring has to be given in selecting stems that offer the best chances for quality single stem blooms. For hybrid teas, I "overprune" my roses in April, i.e., I select only thick, healthy green, stems and prune them down to 6-12 inches, even if there is good green wood above this cut-off length. Weak, thin, and less opportunistic stems are cut away from the bush. There are two reasons for this approach: Holdover, thick, robust stems from last year are most likely to give new season growth that will yield bigger blooms than thin and weak stems. Yes, you sacrifice the quantity of the blooms in your garden with this approach, but the blooms you do get with selective stem pruning tend to be bigger and of better exhibition quality. Roses, especially those against the southern-exposure foundation of the house in my garden, develop quicker than those out further in the less protected areas of the garden. Thus these next-to-the-house roses often bloom too early for late June roseshow. By pruning lower than one would for normal garden display, the breaking of buds to form new stems in early spring is delayed, and results in the "lower-than-normal" pruned-back bushes blooming later in June. Fertilizing is also a major consideration in attempting to grow quality, single-stem rose blooms. Some advice recommended at LCRS meetings on quantity and frequency of fertilizer are, in my opinion, grossly overstated. I use one-quarter cup of fertilizer just twice during the spring. The first one isn't applied until the last week in April. Why so late? Soil organisms are needed to break down fertilizer elements (mainly nitrogen, potassium, and phosphate) into forms that can be absorbed by the roots. These organisms need "warmish" soil to flourish and do their work on fertilizers. This doesn't happen until the soil temperature warms to about 55 degrees. In my garden, the soil, down below 6 inches, doesn't reach this temperature in most years until the last week in April. If you apply fertilizer in late March or early April right after you prune your roses, most of the fertilizer can be washed away with rain before the soil organisms are available in quantity to prepare the plant food for the roses. A second, follow-up quarter-of-a-cup of fertilizer is applied the last week in May. To enhance the abundance of soil organisms so important in the fertilizing process, I apply a shovel of well-made compost every time I fertilize. Among other assets, compost is loaded with organisms that promote the effective use of fertilizer. The fertilizer and compost are stirred into the top two inches of the soil after they are applied within the drip-line at the base of the bush. Getting arrow straight stems for show blooms is another task that has to start long before show time. By mid May, just as the buds are forming, one can envision potential queens on those thick, robust stems. However, these super succulent stems can be easily be mangled by unruly growth or by other close-by stems. Some potential show stems can even be sheared off if a strong wind suddenly passes through the garden. Prevention of such disasters is the best course of action to ensure long, straight stems. First, any nearby stems that are not queen potential and may entwine with other stems are removed or staked in such a way that they don't invade the space of a potential queen. Also, those special show stems on the outside of a bush are most susceptible to wind damage, so they are staked. Green, bamboo stakes, 2-3 feet tall, are ideal for this task. In most cases, just entwining the stake close to the stem between alternating sets of leaflet stems is enough to support a wind-threatened stem. An added piece of inexpensive, garden-type, velco tape wrapped around the stem and stick gives added protection. Rose judges consider water-stained blooms major faults when evaluating single blooms at a roseshow. Thus, a serious exhibitor has to protect potential queen show blooms from rain and dew the week before a show. Every exhibitor has his or her own favorite bloom-protection method. The simplest protection is to place baggies over the blooms each night and remove them in the morning. Baggies work well for evening dew and light rain, but heavy rain will collect on the bags and crush the blooms. A second technique is to place large gallon jugs (with their bottoms removed) or shingles attached to upright sticks over potential exhibition blooms. Some exhibitors use 12-ounce plastic cups affixed to a bamboo stake with an elastic band to protect mini and miniflora blooms. Whatever type of protection is used, it should be removed during sunny days, especially for roses such as Double Delight and Gemini that need sunlight to bring out their brilliant colors. Start collecting roses three days before a roseshow, preferably in early morning or just after sunset. However, I tend to pick a potential show bloom just before it reaches its peak form no matter what time of the day it is. I place it in a bucket of cool water and let it sit in the water for 2-4 hours in a cool basement. Its leaves and stems are then cleaned. Any damage to the leaves and stems is manicured, but I never begin grooming the bloom until I arrive at a roseshow. The cleaned roses are placed in a refrigerator, if it available. But robust show blooms can last 3-4 days in a cool, dark cellar if a refrigerator is not available. The night before a show, exhibitors make a list of the roses they collected, check the categories of the show book, and plan an exhibition strategy based on the roses they culled. Then they go to bed early so they'll be bright and alert for the show. Exhibitors should arrive as early as possible at the roseshow to prepare their entries since the biggest rival at a roseshow is a lack of time to properly prepare roses for exhibition. Most important, exhibitors participate in roseshow to have fun and to show the public the beauty of the rose. And, after each show, they evaluate their techniques and use the evaluation as the base for improvement the next time it is showtime.