

THE ROSE WINDOW

A Newsletter for the Blooming Rosarian

DECEMBER 2023



PC: Regan Duffee

ISSUE FEATURES

ARS National Convention 2024

Winter Reading List

How to Test and Correct Soil pH

NERS 83rd Annual Founders' Day Luncheon

OGR Spotlight: Damask Rose

Homemade Rose Hip Powder Recipe

2024 American Rose Society National Convention: Sailing on a Sea of Roses

By Patsy Cunningham



It's time to start telling everyone about the upcoming National Convention. The Yankee District will be hosting a convention in Rhode Island on September 9-13, 2024 as part of the inauguration of our own Craig Dorschel as President of the American Rose Society. We'll be holding the convention at the Crowne Plaza in Warwick, a venue most Rhode Islanders are very familiar with from weddings, corporate parties and conventions of all sorts.

As I write this, the registration cost is not yet finalized, but is expected in the next month or two. Our website at <https://seaofroses.org> is a great place to find out more about the convention, schedule, speakers and more. Join with other interested rosarians on our Facebook Group : [American Rose Society 2024 National Convention](#). We have 269 members at this time, I've made it a private group now to reduce hacking, but it's easy to request membership and to invite friends to join.

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2024 American Rose Society National Convention: Sailing on a Sea of Roses

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The convention co-chairs are Dave Long and Becky Martorelli. The website has a general schedule, a page of speaker bios, information on the Newport bus trip and some general local information. We'll be adding the three rose show schedules ie horticultural, arrangement and photography as soon as they are available.

The convention starts on Monday the 10th, with an outgoing ARS board meeting. For most of us, it starts Tuesday with the National Rose Show. Baldo Villegas and Jacqui Nye are the co-chairs of the rose show. This is your chance to see roses from skilled exhibitors from around the country. And it's your big chance to compete for national trophies!

Tuesday also includes three presentations. Irwin Ehrenreich will present "Rose Gardens of Cape Cod"



Cape Cod Garden of Irwin & Cindy Ehrenreich
PC: Cindy Ehrenreich

and Mike and Angie Chute will speak on "The Brownells: American Rose Pioneers". Following lunch, the keynote speaker will be Matthias Meiland of the House of Meiland. The evening will end with a banquet and awards.

Wednesday has three more presentations: a Backyard Hybridizers Panel, Diana Lopez, a researcher on blackspot, and finally Christian Bedard, the research director of Weeks. The installation banquet will include major national awards. At this time Craig Dorschel will be installed as president.



Arrangement by Jean Stream
PC: Curtis Ausmiller



Rhode Island Red & White Cap,
bred by Dr. Brownell
PC: Angelina & Mike Chute

2024 American Rose Society National Convention: Sailing on a Sea of Roses

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Thursday finishes the convention for most folks. There will be meetings for Yankee, New York and Penn-Jersey districts. Immediately afterwards, we'll head out for a full day bus tour of beautiful historic Newport. The guided bus tour will travel around Ocean Drive with its ocean views and sprawling estates to the grand "summer cottage" of the Vanderbilts, the Breakers. There will be stops along the way for ocean viewing and a stop at Bowens Wharf for lunch on your own.

Save the dates for this fun time. Get the days off of work ahead of time if need be. Take this opportunity to support your district and meet other rose lovers from around the country. There are plenty of opportunities to help out including manning the registration desk and setting up the rose show. [Visit the website](#) and join the [Facebook group](#). Plan on showing your roses, making an arrangement and bringing your best photos. Hope to see you all there!

-Patsy Cunningham



'Romantica Ball Gown' is a Meilland rose introduced by Star Roses that is intensely fragrant with a classic rose scent with notes of powder



Detail of The Breakers
Jenelizabethjournals.com



Brenton Reef
PC: Patsy Cunningham

LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

Lauren Duffee Gisel

It is the time of year where everything starts to slow down in the garden. The early season frosts leave crisp edges on the leaves but melt away in the autumn sun. The foliage becomes brittle, and the petaled blooms transform into red-orange fruit. The leaves no longer softly give way to our presence as we walk through the garden and instead fall and crinkle under our boots. We know that the landscape soon will be covered in a thick carpeting of snow, hiding the weeds we never had a chance to clear, and the misshapen foliage damaged by the onslaught of hungry insects. Now comes the time for the garden to reset. The roses fall dormant as they rid themselves of the unwanted maladies that come with the summer heat. And for us gardeners, it is the time to turn our attention indoors - to our family and friends as we celebrate the end of the year and to our plans of future gardening spaces. For we also need to rest and reset.

Reflection of this past year brings me a smile. I feel so fortunate to have made so many connections in this community. I met most of you for the first time at the March district convention where I realized I was not alone in my obsessive collecting of plants, my joy in good compost, or my seeking structure in the chaos of nature. I am awed by the knowledge in this group and grateful for how freely it is shared.



In this issue of the Rose Window, we focus on the activities that keep the toiling gardener busy indoors. We have articles on collecting rose hips and our favorite books to further our craft.

We have so much to look forward to next year! Our district will welcome the National American Rose Society Convention, we will see the return of the Boston Garden Show, but most of all, we will greet the new roses that arrive at our doorsteps.

-Lauren Gisel



PC: Regan Duffee

SAILING ON A SEA OF ROSES

American Rose Society
2024 National Convention
September 9-13, 2024

Crowne Plaza Hotel
Warwick, Rhode Island

Hosted by the Yankee District with the support of the Penn-Jersey
and New York Districts

Featuring:
2024 National Rose Show
2024 National Rose Photography Show
Inauguration of Craig Dorschel as President of the
American Rose Society

<https://seaofroses.org>
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/seaofroses>

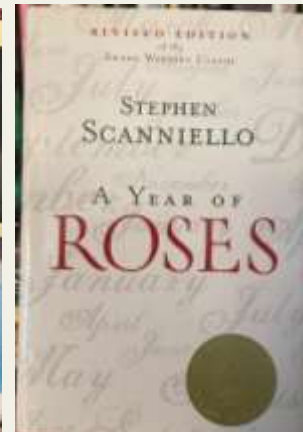
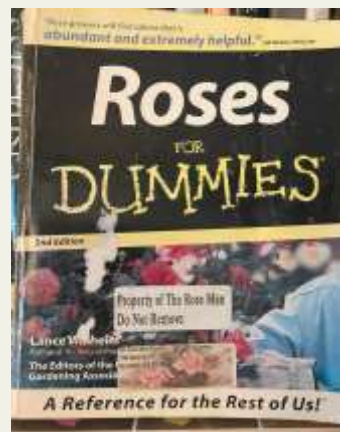
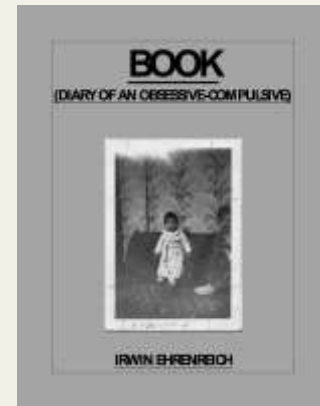


My Favorite Rose Books

By Irwin Ehrenreich

As some of you know (especially those of you who have read my book: **Diary Of An Obsessive-compulsive**), I am a compulsive book collector. I have a nice collection of 85 rose books. Asking me which are my favorite is like asking me which are my favorite Beatle albums. I enjoy them all. Some are large hardcover collections of rose photos and rose garden photos but some are very informative must reads.

My first rose book was '**Roses for Dummies**' (I kid you not). It is an excellent book written with the help of many well-known A.R.S. Consulting Rosarians and rose nursery owners. I read it three times over my first few years of growing roses. It's a must for new rose society members and seasoned rosarians will still enjoy it. It's still available on Amazon. This is how I learned the differences between Hybrid Teas, Floribundas, Grandifloras, Shrubs, etc. There's a chapter for each class with a listing and description of the best roses with beautiful photos of those listed. Then there are chapters on selecting, planting, watering, fertilizing, spraying, pruning, etc.

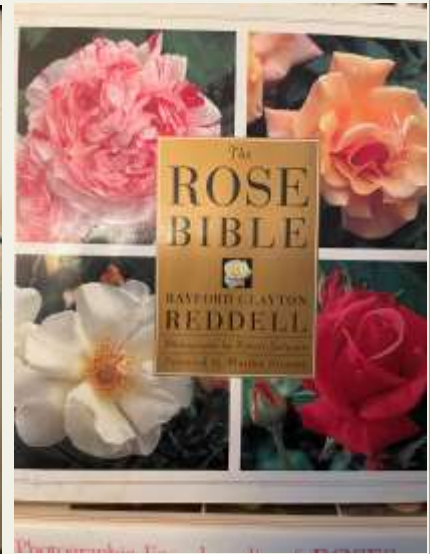
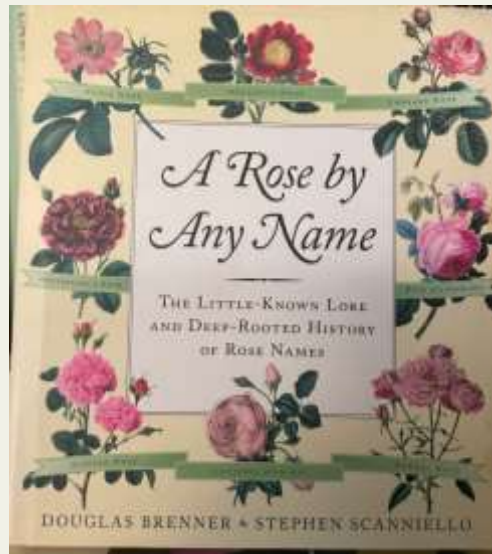
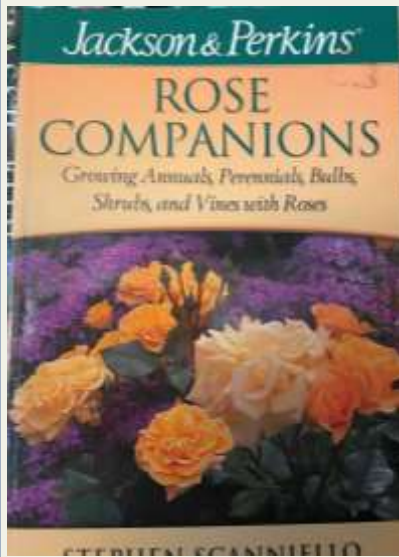


My second rose book was Stephen Scanniello's '**A Year of Roses**'. Each chapter is about a month of the year and what to do during that month.

For my first three years of rose growing, I read each chapter during that month. It's available on Amazon. The best description of this book, and of all the books that I've listed, is on the Amazon page. Make sure to read the reviews that follow. Scanniello has also written many other excellent books including '**Rose Companions**', '**A Rose by Any Name**', which tells the story behind some of the most famous roses, and '**Climbing Roses**' by Scanniello and Bayard.

My Favorite Rose Books

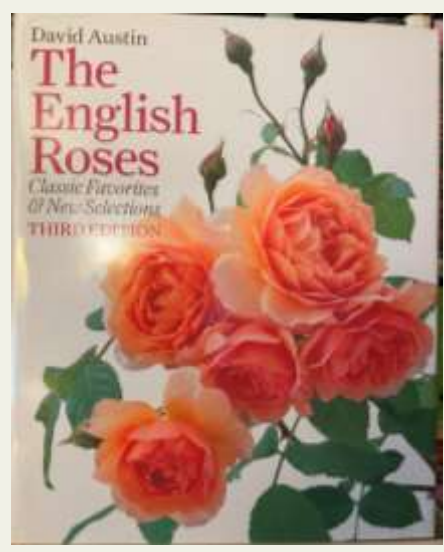
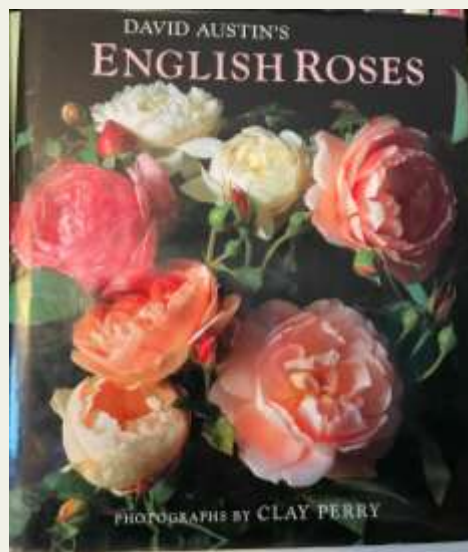
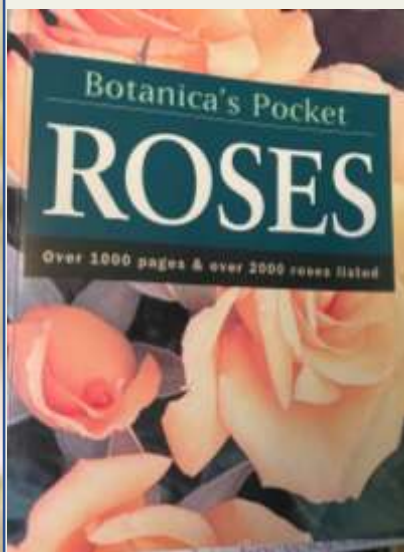
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Another early book of mine is **'The Rose Bible'** by Clayton Reddell. I have the hardcover but it's now available on Amazon in both hardcover and paperback. This is a **MUST HAVE BOOK**. A sit by the fireplace with hot cocoa on a cold winter's day book. Beautiful photos and lots of rose history, stories and information on rose growing. One of the 4 roses on the cover is Royal Sunset. We loved it so much that we bought 20 of them for the picket fence in front of my house.

'Botanica's Roses' is a massive (and heavy) 700-page encyclopedia of roses. It's not a "reading" book but a great reference book. I've looked up hundreds of roses in this book over the years. I also have the smaller (and easier to pick up) paperback version-Botanica's Pocket Roses. It's 1,000 pages.

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My Favorite Rose Books

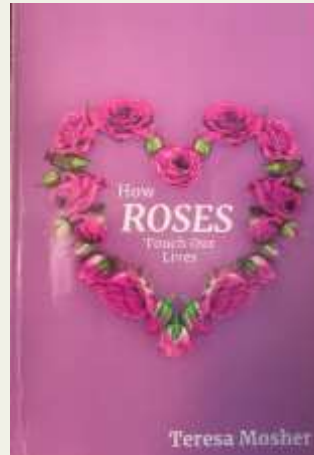
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I have two beautiful large hardcover books by the late David Austin- '**English Roses**' and '**The English Roses**'. These books were indispensable to me over the years as I collected my 90 varieties of David Austin roses. I hope to hit 100 in a few years.

There are many members of the Yankee District who have written books:

-Mike and Angelina Chute's '**Roses for New England, a Guide to Sustainable Rose Gardening**', is an enjoyable book to read. It's a great book for beginners but also a nice source of information on sustainable roses. Their extensive list starts with one of my favorite roses, Alain Blanchard, and ends with my favorite climber, the Bourbon Zephirine Drouhin.

-Teresa Mosher wrote 2 books that I have in my collection. '**A Year in my Rose garden**' goes through the year, month by month. It has beautiful photos (lots of purple), famous quotes, a list of her favorite books, her favorite roses, and a glossary of rose terms.

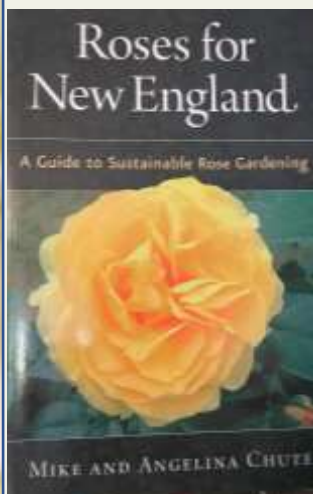


'**How Roses Touch Our Lives**' is a wonderful book about "People from many walks of life who share a love of roses and how this special flower has touched their lives". Cindy and I were honored to have been included in her book.

-The late Andy Vanable wrote a booklet '**Hybridizing Roses: A series of Step by Step Procedures**'. It begins with a poem called 'The Hybridizer's Dream'. For the past few years, every November, I've collected rose hips to grow the seeds under lights in my basement. I always re-read Andy's booklet which guides me along the way. I'm not sure if or where this is available but, if anyone is interested, I can make my copy available to put on the Yankee District website.

Other rosarians, not of our district, who wrote books that I have and have read include:

-Pat Shanley, Peter Kukielski and Gene Waerings's '**The Sustainable Rose Garden**'. This book has "38 articles by the leading authorities in today's rose world".



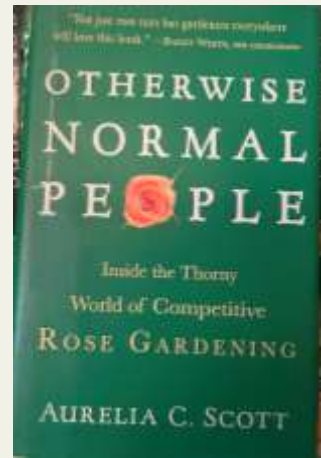
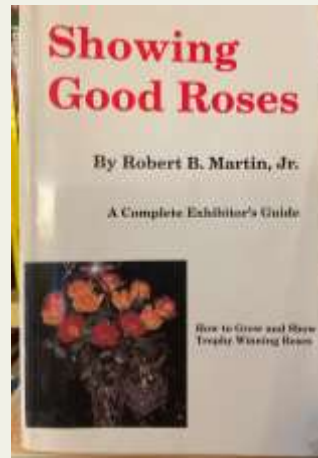
My Favorite Rose Books

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-The late Robert Martin's **'Showing Good Roses: A Complete Exhibitor's Guide'**. This is where I learned the term 'Bank Bed' which is a bed of roses for your 'Bankers', your top exhibition Hybrid Teas. After reading this book, I set up bank beds around my garden and moved all of my best Hybrid Teas to those beds.

-Aurelia C. Scott's **'Otherwise Normal People'** goes "Inside the Thorny World of Competitive Rose Gardening". It's filled with great stories about the best rose exhibitors around the country. Some of the people mentioned in the book that are known to the Yankee District include John Mattia, the late Clarence Rhodes and the late Donna Fuss.

If you are really ambitious or bored with plenty of time on your hand, try reading the **'Consulting Rosarian Manual'** and the **'Guidelines and Rules for Judging Roses'**. You don't have to be a C.R. or a Judge to benefit from reading these 2 manuals. They will help you be a better rosarian and a better exhibitor. I have the digital versions downloaded and, through magic of "The Cloud", I can read them on my phone. Perfect for that 3-hour bus ride to visit a rose garden.



And finally, a book and a booklet that I refer to over and over, especially at rose shows, are **'The Combined Rose List'** and **'American Rose Society Handbook for Selecting Roses'**. I use these to confirm a roses correct spelling, class, date of introduction, color and rating. I keep the ARS guide in my back pocket whenever I exhibit or judge a show.

So keep reading and enjoying your rose books. Look at your local rose society's library. I'm sure that you'll find some of these books there



SATURDAY, MARCH 23, 2024

Escape the Winter Doldrums with Rosy Friends

Featuring:

Q & A Session with Consulting and Master Rosarians
Presentation on 2024 New Rose Releases by Irwin Ehrenreich
Game Night!



**PUBLIC HOUSE
STURBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS**



Meals: \$85 - Lunch & Dinner, Tip included

Want to stay the night?

Group room rate \$169

Code: NERS24

publichouse.com

ADDITIONAL DETAILS TO FOLLOW

Do You Know the “Sweet Sisters”?

By Audrey Osborn

I met the first sister, Regan Duffee, at a New England Rose Society meeting in 2022. She was a new rose grower and was very enthusiastic about learning all things rose culture and how to grow great roses. Regan first learned about the NERS from Jeannette – she had noticed Regan regularly walking through the aisles of roses, and suggested she should come to our next meeting. That year, she joined the society, exhibited in her first rose show, and presented beautiful roses for the six-pack rose show in the fall. I listened to her speak about her love of horses and the fact that she was very competitive in the ring. I said to myself, “Hmmm, this is a member that is going to go far!” I remember talking with Andy later and saying to him that I think Regan will be a great asset to the New England Rose Society...little did I know how true those words would be!



Regan (Left) & Lauren (Right)

Fast forward to the Yankee District Convention at the Publick House in Sturbridge, March of 2023. Regan sent in her registration along with a registration for her sister Lauren Gisel. Oh, by the way, did I mention that they were young? I mean, like, really young! We were setting up the raffle Friday night and Regan and Lauren jumped in to help organize the raffle, arranging items and writing signs. Later, during breaks between speakers at the Convention, Maria, Regan and Lauren got the NERS on Instagram and into the 21st century! Wow!

We had a Hospitality Room set up for both Friday and Saturday nights and we invited attendees to join us for a game night! Card games, board games, chess boards, something for everyone! Well, this is when I really got to know the sisters. They were so friendly and very social with everyone. I felt like I knew them for years and could not get over how nice they were. I started calling them “The Sweet Sisters”. The name stuck, and I have heard others refer to them that way.

It was at the convention that Lauren joined the NERS. “Wow, that’s great,” I thought. At the business meeting Sunday morning, our District Director mentioned that since Andy’s passing, we needed an editor for the Rose Window. I looked in amazement at Lauren’s hand going up in the air! “OMG,” I thought, “is this really happening?!?”

We met Lauren’s daughter, Isla (almost two years old), at the April meeting in Stow. Everyone remarked at how well behaved she was. Lauren and Regan attended the

Do You Know the “Sweet Sisters”?

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Cape Cod Rose Society’s two open garden tours in June, the first at Cindy and Irwin’s house, and the following day at Oz and mine. We were fortunate to meet Regan’s husband, Dan, who joined them at our garden. Lauren gave birth to her son, Callum, at the end of July this year and brought the baby to Regan’s house for the open garden and potluck luncheon for the August NERS meeting. Regan’s roses were gorgeous as was the rest of her gardens. She and Dan were very hospitable and made us feel at home.

Both Regan and Lauren were signed up for the Lobersterfest Weekend. Unfortunately, the weekend was cancelled due to a tropical storm, although a few rosarians braved the weather and were rewarded with a lovely weekend on the Cape. Upon returning home from the cutting workshop at Cindy and Irwin’s garden, Regan found a message on the NERS Instagram page. We were contacted by Ben Hamilton Anderson, a David Austin Roses expert from Great Britain that had a popular channel on Instagram and YouTube! He was planning a visit to New England and was inquiring about the rose community. They leapt into action and secured him as the guest speaker for the NERS Founders’ Day Luncheon in October! Regan and Lauren taught many of us how to follow his social media accounts – there is still hope for many of us! They joined Jeannette and I in the planning of Founders’ Day. It was a wonderful event and the speaker was delightful.

At the November NERS meeting, Lauren was voted in as President and Regan as Vice President. How is that for good things happening in the rose world in Massachusetts and, really, for all of New England?! Come to our End of Winter Doldrum event at the Publick House in March 2024 and meet the Sweet Sisters!



Blair, Lauren, Regan & Dan at Longwood Gardens



Lauren (left) & Regan (right)

Soil pH: What Does It Mean to Rose Growers?

By David Cannistraro

Originally Published: New England Rose Petals May/June 2018

Without going into too many technical terms, soil pH is a measurement of ion activity in the soil. It can range from zero to fourteen, with seven being neutral. Below seven is considered acidic and as the number lowers, even more acidic. Above seven is considered alkaline and, again, as the number increases, more alkaline. **The ideal number rose growers should strive for is around 6.5.**

Now why is this number significant? Well, if you remember from high school, osmosis occurs when there is a pH difference between the plant (about neutral, 7.0) and the surrounding soil (slightly acidic). Nature tries to even out the pH imbalance, causing the plant to take up water and nutrients. If the pH is too low, say 5.5 and lower, certain chemicals in the soil like aluminum and manganese become soluble and cause root problems.



PC: Wayan Vota

How do we solve this problem that most rose growers don't much care about? First, you need to collect a soil sample for pH measurement. Take a soil sample of about 4 tablespoons from approximately six inches below ground level. Place in a baggie or paper cup. Mark the location of your sample, as the soil pH can vary from one end of the bed to the other. The New England Rose Society will test attendees' soil samples at the March meeting.

We expect that most soils in New England are acidic. Rain coming from the Midwest is slightly acidic and the surrounding trees like pine and oak are acidic. What to do? The usual practice is to add lime to the soil to raise pH.

Lime, when worked into the soil, takes about three months to raise the soil pH. It is best to amend your soil in the fall when the soil is still soft or in the early spring. Another quicker way is to add wood ash, but a gardener must be careful! This will raise the pH quickly and can easily be overdone. The volume of wood ash to add to the soil is very small compared to the volume of lime. Here's an easy rule of thumb: ten pounds of lime OR one pound of wood ash for every one hundred square feet. Don't try to bring the pH up too fast as not to overshoot the ideal range. It's rare to find alkaline soil, so acidifying the soil is beyond the scope of this article.

The diligent gardener continues to monitor the pH throughout the season as adding fertilizers and rain can gradually lower pH. Now your balanced soil pH will add to strong root growth, making a stronger plant, bigger blooms, and more vivid color.

Spotlight: Old Garden Roses

Damask Rose

By Lauren Gisel

Old Garden Roses, or “OGR”, is a class of roses that include the varieties that originated prior to 1867, the year that the first Hybrid Tea rose, La France, was introduced. The subclasses of roses that belong under the OGR umbrella include the Bourbons, Albas, Damasks, Teas, Gallicas, among others.

Today we focus on the Damask rose. This OGR is a hybrid derived from the Gallica and Musk varieties. The rose originates from central Asia, and its name refers to the city of Damascus in Syria. It is fabled that Robert de Brie of France brought the Damask rose to Europe on his return from the second crusade in 1148. The typical Damask rose is a medium to large shrub with densely thorned canes. The smaller, white, pink, or red flowers usually form clusters in a single flush although the later Autumn Damask varieties exhibit repeat blooming. The Damask roses are famous for their fragrance, as it is the typical sweet rose scent found in perfumes and creams. The Kazanlik rose is still commercially grown in Bulgaria and Turkey for the production of rose oil through steam distillation. The flowers are edible and can be used as a spice when ground into a powder. They are often added to flavor ice cream, jam, rice pudding and yogurt in central Asian cuisine.



Mme. Hardy

PC: David Austin Roses



Kazanlik

PC: Trevor White Roses



Ispahan

PC: David Austin Roses

Harvesting Rose Hips for the Kitchen

By Lauren Gisel

Rose hips are easily identified in the late fall as red-orange fruits left on the branches of the rose. They can vary in size from ¼” to 1 ¼” although they all have the distinctive look of a berry with dried wispy foliage coming from one end.

The high vitamin and antioxidant content of the fruit makes them a popular home remedy to reduce inflammation and arthritis pain. (This is not to be misconstrued as medical advice.) Ground rose hips can be incorporated in topical creams to help reduce the appearance of wrinkles and improve skin moisture and elasticity. Rose hips can be used in tea, jams, chutneys, and syrups. The following page features a recipe for a decadent winter truffle!



Rose hips ready for harvest
PC: ahyggehomestead.com



Removing the seeds and hairs.
PC: simplybeyondherbs.com



Rose hips ready to be ground
PC: simplybeyondherbs.com

You will want to harvest your rose hips when they are fully ripened – a deep color and firm to the touch. Do not collect rose hips from roses that were sprayed with pesticides. Wear gloves if your rose shrubs are densely armored and remove from the plant. Rinse the surface of your rose hips in cool water. It is recommended to remove the seeds as they can cause some irritation, although leaving the seeds will increase the vitamin C content. Use a sharp knife to cut each rose hip in half and remove the seeds and hairs inside. Spread the remaining fruit in a single layer and allow them to dry completely (up to 1-2 weeks). Use a blender or coffee grinder to turn the hips into a fine powder. Store your rose hip powder in a closed glass jar in a dark, cool place. The shelf life is approximately 1 year.

Sources: backyardforager.com & simplybeyondherbs.com

Rose Hip Winter Truffles

Recipe Created by Green Kitchen Stories

Edited by Lauren Gisel

Makes 15-20 truffles

For the truffle dough:

100 g raw cashews

100 g dried apricots (look for “unsulphured” or “no sulfur”)

4 Tbsp ground rose hip powder (recipe on the previous page)

2 Tbsp extra virgin coconut oil, room temperature

1 tsp ground ginger

0.5 tsp vanilla extract

0.5 tsp ground chili powder (milder) or cayenne (spicier)

1 tsp ground cinnamon

Rolling mixture:

1 Tbsp cacao powder

1 Tbsp rose hip powder



1. Add the nuts to a food processor and run until finely chopped
2. Add the rest of the truffle dough ingredients and pulse for 1 minute or until forming a ball
3. Remove the mixture from the processor and place in the refrigerator for 10 minutes
4. Form 15-20 small round truffles with your hands – they should be half the size of a golf ball
5. Roll the truffles in the rolling mixture
6. Place in the refrigerator for 20 minutes before serving

Note: This recipe requires a kitchen scale to measure volumes

<https://greenkitchenstories.com/rose-hip-christmas-truffles/>

Upcoming District Events Spring 2024

December 17: Yankee District Board Meeting – Virtual, 7:30p

January 6: CCRS Seminar – Rose Releases 2024, Dennis MA

January 7: CTRS Potluck Luncheon, Plainville CT

January 20: NERS Winter Get Together, Westwood MA

February 3: CCRS Meeting – Topic TBD, Dennis MA

February 4: CTRS Calendar Contest

February 17: NERS Seminar – Rose Gardens of Italy, Canton MA

February 22-25: CT Flower and Garden Show, Hartford CT

March 2-10: Philadelphia Flower Show, Philadelphia PA

March 16: NERS Seminar – Arrangement Workshop, Waltham MA

March 23: Escape the Winter Doldrums, Sturbridge MA

April 6: CCRS Seminar – Pruning Demonstration, Dennis MA

April 7: CTRS Rose Auction, Opening the Garden, Plainville CT

April 27: NERS Seminar – Organic Rose Gardening, Stow MA

May 5: CTRS Seminar – Neal Sanders: Gardening is Murder

May 11-12: CCRS Gathering at Garden Center, Location TBD

May 18: NERS Seminar – Exhibiting Roses, Westwood, MA

June 8: RIRS Rose Show, Hope RI

June 9: CTRS Rose Show, West Hartford MA

June 15: NERS Rose Show, Boylston MA

June: CCRS Garden Picnic and Cutting Workshop, Barnstable MA

*This list is *not* comprehensive and only includes events that have been announced as of the date of the newsletter publishing*

New England Rose Society's 83rd Annual Founders' Day Luncheon

By Lauren Gisel

This year's Founders' Day luncheon was hosted at Evviva Trattoria in Stoneham, MA on October 29, 2023. The event featured a special guest speaker – Ben Hamilton Anderson. #GardenerBen presented a seminar on the history of the David Austin English Rose and discussed his favorite varieties. Many of Ben's photos have been featured in the David Austin catalogue including this year's cover photograph. We are so thankful for his sharing his time and knowledge on these stunning roses.



You can find his YouTube channel “Ben Hamilton Anderson – the David Austin Expert” at www.youtube.com/@the_gardenerben where he features over 100 in depth reviews of David Austin roses and many Top 10 lists – best of color, best of fragrance, etc. You can also follow @the_gardenerben on Instagram for updates of his home garden , North Lodge Cottage in Fordingbridge, UK.



PC: Chu Jong

New England Rose Society's 83rd Annual Founders' Day Luncheon

October 29, 2023

Attendees were invited to submit their photographs of rose blooms, rose sprays, and rose gardens. During the intermission, attendees voted on their favorite photographs. Each category's winner received a gift card, donated by David Austin. Pictured below are the winners!



Rose Garden: Regan Duffee



Rose Bloom: Lauren Gisel (tie)



Rose Spray: Regan Duffee



Rose Bloom: Linda Palmer (tie)

YANKEE DISTRICT ROSE SOCIETY BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Chair of Horticulture Judges	Ed Cunningham	edcps116@cox.net
Chair of Arrangement Judges	Craig Dorschel	craigdorschel@charter.net
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YD CONSULTING ROSARIANS

* Master Rosarian

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