

# GardenNOTES



NORTHWEST HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

SUMMER 2010

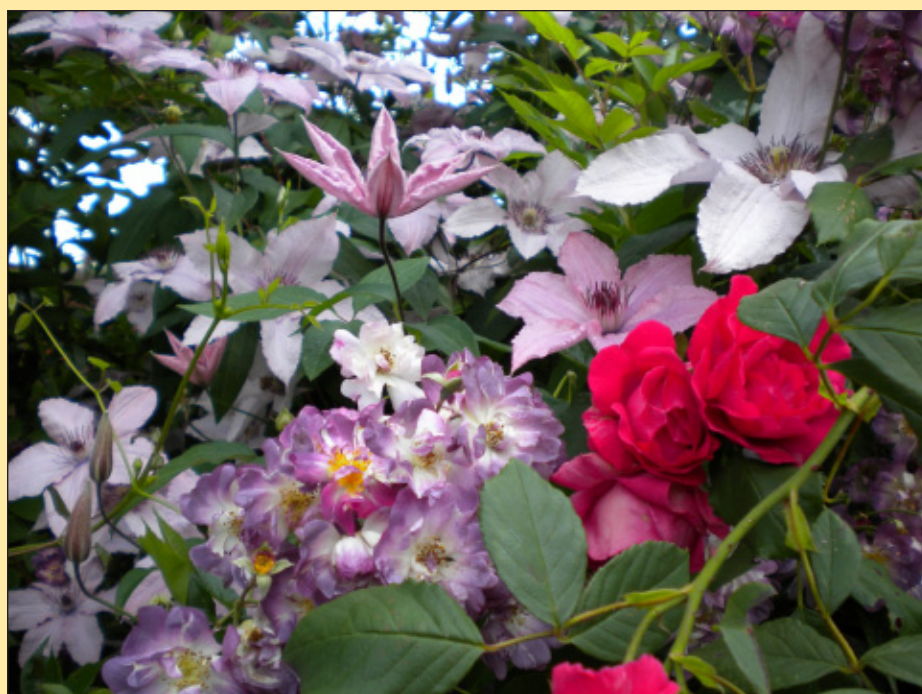
## A BOUQUET OF OLD GARDEN ROSES

SUE HOPKINS

OLD GARDEN ROSES (OGRs) refer to classes of roses first identified before 1867 as well as all roses that continue to be bred from within those classes. Some are once-bloomers with an intensity of fragrance and prolific bloom that last from two to eight weeks; others flush in spring and fall; still others bloom more frequently. These roses are healthy, easy-to-grow, and offer color ranges from whites and pinks to creamy or golden yellows to deeply romantic blue-reds. Flowers can be singles (four to eight petals), semi-double, or double, or very full/doubled. Blooms are varied, ranging from a single flower on a short or long stem to clusters of three or dozens.

What most OGRs have in common that differentiates them from the hybrid teas and floribundas is their shape: flat across the top rather than a high-pointed center. Their colors, more muted than today's saturated oranges and chromium yellows, include rich egg-yolk yellows, golden-hued corals, and deep aubergine and scarlet.

The emphasis on repetition and saturated color has resulted in modern roses that may require more intensive care. OGRs, on the other hand, are carefree plants, happy to find their place within the garden landscape, with many devoting their energies to one breathtaking bloom. Not all roses must be front and center at all times, any more than rhodo-



Clematis '*Comtesse de Bouchaud*', C. '*Matka Siedliska*',  
Rosa '*Veilchenblau*', and R. '*Cl. Blaze*' (Sue Hopkins)

dendrons, lilacs, or bulbs are expected to bloom all summer long.

Classes that perform superbly in our climate include species, albas, bourbons, damasks, centifolias, spinosissimas, mosses, and hybrid perpetuals.

Among the species roses, *Rosa glauca* has nondescript blossoms when compared to the blue-green leaves, which are highly prized for floral design. Another species rose valued entirely for its prickles (thorns) is *R. sericea pteracantha*. On

new growth, these translucent ruby-red prickles are perfectly shaped curly brackets, a botanical conversation piece.

Make room for the albas, bourbons, damasks, centifolias, and mosses. The albas are soft of color and generous with scent. Nearly thornless, albas will flourish with as little as four sunny hours daily.

Bourbons make happy those who want remontant (repeat blooming) roses. Seek out '*Souvenir de la Malmaison*', ►

## A BOUQUET OF OLD GARDEN ROSES. . . continued from page 1



ABOVE: Rosa 'Camaieux'  
RIGHT: R. sericea pteracantha  
(Both photos by Marji Lynn)



'Louise Odier', 'Gypsy Boy', and 'Kronprinzessin Viktoria'.

Of the damasks, 'Celsiana', a silver-pink, shimmers in sunlight.

The centifolias, or "hundred-petaled" roses include 'Fantin-Latour', 'Comte de Chambord', and 'Château de Napoléon', also known as a moss rose because its fringed and mossed sepals are shaped like the tricorner hat Napoléon favored.

The mosses, Victorian treasures, add balsam or citrusy scents to mossed buds. Among the repeating mosses, 'Salet' is exceptional.

Hybrid perpetuals are heavily flowering, large shrubs that require at least a five-foot space. With ten-to-twelve-foot canes, they should be pruned or pegged (to the soil or to themselves) to generate multiple laterals for a blanket of flowers in spring and fall. Many bloom sporadically during the season and are especially useful for climbing border fences or as a stunning centerpiece in the large border. Among the best are 'Anna de Diesbach' and 'Ardoisée de Lyon'.

There is nothing quite so cheerful as an early May morning walk, coming upon spinosissimas 'Doorenbos Selection', 'Mrs.

Colville', 'Glory of Edzell', or 'William III' in bloom. These roses are the essence of charm with tiny, brightly colored blooms and oversized stamens of brilliant yellow. Put a bumblebee in that rose and the day begins perfectly.

All of these roses make good habitat and food sources for birds, protecting them from predators and bad weather, offering food from insects and winter hips, and materials and space for nest-building. Among the OGR classes, there are roses for every purpose whether it's climbing a tree, trellis, or arch with light washes of color; adding shrubs to an existing border; filling show-stopping pots; or providing appealing ground cover. Hedges can be simple things of beauty that protect while enhancing at varied heights.

As for care, there is little to do. These are all hardy plants, best grown on their own roots, and they need very little attention. The plants have deep taproots and feeder roots at the surface to absorb micro-nutrients from the soil. Prune for shape and size;

remove dead canes. Feed in late fall or early spring with aged manure for maximum bloom. Water deeply once a month during summer if your plants are mature; young plants require more frequent water. Give them six or more hours of sun each day in summer and they'll be a boon to the rest of your garden. You can and should interplant them with other shrubs and perennials.

OGRs are plants for gardeners who value biodiversity, self-management, beauty, and fragrance. These are the work-horses of the rose world, not the prima donnas. 🌹

### RESOURCES

Online resources include:

- [www.vintagegardens.com](http://www.vintagegardens.com)
- [www.roguevalleyroses.com](http://www.roguevalleyroses.com)
- [www.eurodesertroses.com](http://www.eurodesertroses.com)
- [www.northlandrosarium.com](http://www.northlandrosarium.com)

Also especially helpful in identification and resource availability is [www.helpmefind.com/rose](http://www.helpmefind.com/rose).

In Washington, visit Antique Rose Farm in Snohomish, Christianson's Nursery in Mt. Vernon, and contact Heritage Roses Northwest for their frequent sales of rare and sometimes mature roses at [www.heritagerosesnorthwest.org](http://www.heritagerosesnorthwest.org).

*[Editor's Note: This issue of Garden Notes is dedicated to the rose. Inside you'll find articles on propagation, the 'Peace' rose, two rosy poems, and even some rosy humor! I hope you enjoy it.—JAR]*

*Sue Hopkins is past president and current newsletter editor of Heritage Roses Northwest, advisor to Heritage Rose Foundation, and board member of Heritage Roses Groups. She gardens on a quarter-acre near the Cedar River in Renton and has a collection of over 350 roses. She can be reached at [suehopkins49@msn.com](mailto:suehopkins49@msn.com) or at 425-227-9955.*

# HOW TO T-BUD A ROSE

JUDY REDMOND

I LOVE THE MYRIAD COLORS, fragrances, and forms of roses. In 2005, I had a formal rose garden installed with 58 floribundas, hybrid teas, grandifloras, and climbers. However, after two very cold winters and discovering that I'm in a cold microclimate (elevation 440 ft.), I'm down to 46 roses. How can I save some money and graft my own roses? This article explains how to do this.

## Terms

The plant being propagated (represented by the bud) is referred to as the *scion*. The plant being grafted onto is the *rootstock*. A small branch with several buds suitable for budding is called a *bud stick*.

## What is T-budding?

T-budding is a grafting technique in which the grafted plant is produced from a single bud. The resulting plants are clones of the original. T-budding can be performed on most roses from March to August. Cooler months are most successful as both the scion and the rootstock are more likely to be receptive.

## General Info

Scion material needs to have fully formed, mature, dormant buds. The rootstock should be in a condition of active growth so that the "bark is slipping." This means that the vascular cambium is actively growing, and the bark can be peeled easily from the stock with little damage.

Roses are most commonly grafted onto 'Dr. Huey' rootstock, which is from a very hardy red climbing rose. To obtain rootstock, you can ask a consulting rosarian (try the Seattle Rose Society at [www.seattlrosesociety.org](http://www.seattlrosesociety.org)) or just cut off a rose below the graft union; it will regenerate as rootstock.

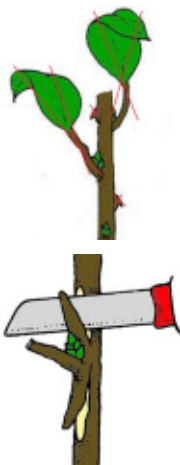
Budding knives must be kept very sharp so that as little damage as possible is done to the buds. Don't let budsticks dry out.

## Step 1

- The ideal stem is one that has just finished blooming and is showing new buds.
- Remove leaves and thorns from the bud sticks.

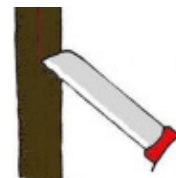
## Step 2

- The cut should begin about ½ to ¾ inch above the bud and should go deeply enough so that the bark and a small sliver of wood are cut off.
- A perpendicular cut across the bottom of the downward cut will separate it from the bud stick.



## Step 3

- A vertical cut is made which should be deep enough to ensure that the bark will separate at the cambium.



## Step 4

- The "T" is crossed. A perpendicular cut is made at the lower end of the vertical cut.
- In areas with heavy rainfall, this inverted "T"-bud is used to prevent water from pooling in the graft.



## Step 5

- The bark is carefully slipped from the stem of the rootstock exposing a "pocket" into which the bud shield can be placed.
- Be careful not to tear the flaps of bark.



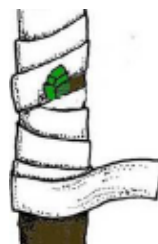
## Step 6

- The bud shield is carefully slipped in between the bark flaps.
- The bottom of the bark strip on the bud shield is trimmed to fit tightly against the horizontal cut (the cross of the "T") so that the bud fits within the "pocket" snugly.



## Step 7

- The bark flaps are held tightly against the bud, as they are wrapped with parafilm or grafting tape.
- This closure must either break down by weathering (as parafilm does), or must be removed in two to three weeks after the union has healed.



## Step 8

- After the union has healed, the upper part of the rootstock plant can be cut away to force the bud to grow.
- If the grafting is done in late summer, the bud likely will need to overwinter prior to resuming growth.

## Step 9

- After the upper portion of the rootstock is removed, the scion bud grows (hopefully) vigorously.

Have some fun and experiment to see if you can successfully T-bud a rose. Don't be discouraged if you don't succeed the first time as this is a tricky process that requires a lot of patience. 🌹

*Judy Redmond is the editor of Garden Notes. She gardens on 2.5 acres in bucolic Woodinville, Washington.*

# ~ SIXTH ANNUAL SEATTLE ~ MEET THE BOARD TOUR

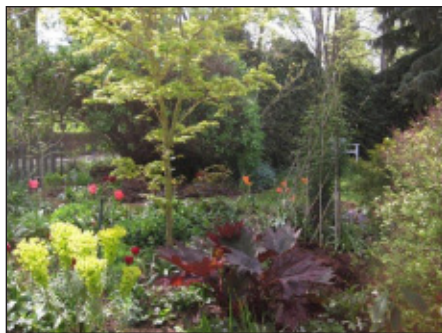
SUNDAY, AUGUST 1, NOON TO 5:00 PM

THE TOUR OF GARDENS belonging to NHS board members grows in popularity every year, and as always, it is free for our members. Past president Pat Riehl suggested the idea so that not only could NHS members and their friends have the privilege of touring some outstanding private gardens, but also so that our board members could meet and greet our membership.

This year, in order to always make available new and unique gardens on the tour, there will be two gardens included belonging to non-board members, but they will each be staffed by a current-board member.

The tour will be on **Sunday, August 1, from 12:00 pm to 5:00 pm.**

Please register on the sign-in sheet at each garden and ENJOY! Remember that this is a special tour reserved for NHS members and their friends only.



**DOUG BAYLEY GARDEN**  
1907 14TH AVE. E., CAPITOL HILL

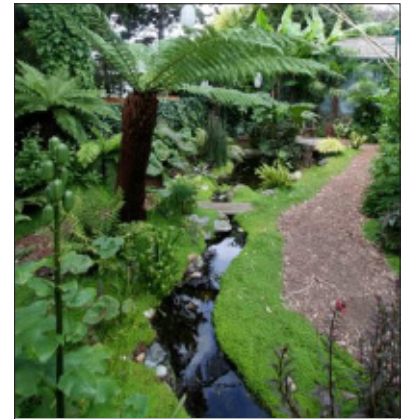
DOUG BAYLEY IS A PAST NHS board president, landscape designer, and past curator of the Dunn Garden. After spending the last two years in Italy, we are lucky that he has returned in time to

be on our tour. His is an urban garden that looks like the country. The garden is designed to be low maintenance, with views from the windows of the house looking into soft, green foliage with no visible tasks to be done. The higher maintained beds are closer to the house, and are mostly seen from outside looking back, when the weather is nice and one feels like gardening. Smaller gardens are farther from the house with deciduous shrubs, perennials, fruits, vegetables, and bulbs.



**CINDY COMBS GARDEN**  
3626 41ST AVE. W., MAGNOLIA

CINDY COMBS WAS DETERMINED to create the picturesque garden of her dreams, but her requirement was that it be sustainable. The garden has been featured in numerous magazines. The sunny front boasts a recently installed rain garden, which was added to established plantings. The back garden is leafy and cool, punctuated by architectural features including a garden shed painted by her sister to depict a giant birdhouse. You will be greeted in Cindy's garden by NHS board member Renee Montgelas.

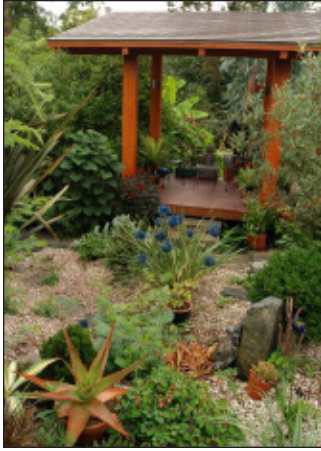


**DAN CORSON GARDEN**  
5707 29TH AVE. N.E.,  
UNIVERSITY DISTRICT

DAN CORSON IS AN NHS board member, and in his spare time he travels around the country creating sculptures for public and private spaces. He and his partner, Berndt Stugger's, magical garden will transport you back in time to a Jurassic landscape. Large tree fern specimens, giant *Gunnera tinctoria*, and oversized foliage greet you as you explore the garden. Rare gems, terrestrial orchids, and a growing collection of bromeliads make it easy to imagine you are in the steamy tropics—not Seattle! Don't forget your safari gear.

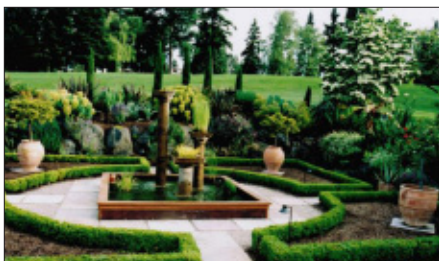


## SEATTLE MEET THE BOARD TOUR CONTINUED



**DANIEL SPARLER GARDEN**  
5920 SEWARD PARK AVE. S.,  
SEWARD PARK

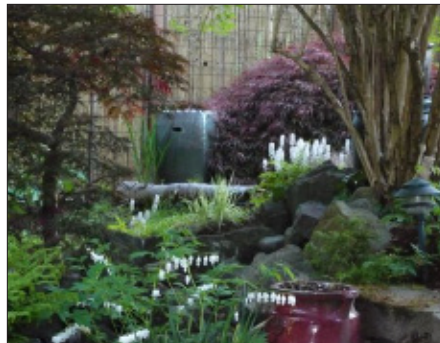
DANIEL SPARLER'S EXTRAORDINARY garden features an amazing array both of rare and unusual plant material arranged in a designed fashion and of creative garden art—mostly built by him and his partner, Jeff Schouten. They generously open their garden to horticultural students, professionals, and garden clubs not only as a learning tool, but as a feast for the eyes and the senses. The garden has been featured on HGTV, in *Sunset* magazine, and in Thomas Hobbs's book, *The Jewel Box Garden*.



**SUE TONG GARDEN**  
4837 N.E. 85TH ST., SAND POINT

SUE TONG COMPLETELY CHANGED a Northwest garden filled with

rhododendrons into a Mediterranean style built for entertaining. The front garden greets you with a gunnera leaf sculpture in a reflecting pool created by Bainbridge Island artists, Little and Lewis. Italian cypress and other drought-tolerant plants add to the Mediterranean theme. A large stone terrace in back is adjacent to a Little and Lewis square pond with three columns dripping water surrounded by a boxwood hedge and white carpet roses. The formal garden gradually transitions to an informal setting. Board member Gillian Mathews will greet you there.



**MARIE WEILER GARDEN**  
5819 N.E. 196TH ST., KENMORE

MARIE WEILER RECENTLY JOINED the NHS board. She is a master gardener, but you will automatically know that when you enter her garden. A meandering path leads you through lush garden rooms of woodland plants, Japanese maples, peonies, water features, and a Little and Lewis pomegranate sculpture nestled in ferns. She calls it *Pigs' Paradise* because a variety of statuesque pigs are placed throughout the garden. 🐷

## Two Rosy Poems

### A RED, RED ROSE BY ROBERT BURNS 1759-1796

O my Luve's like a red, red rose  
That's newly sprung in June;  
O my Luve's like the melodie  
That's sweetly played in tune.

As fair art thou, my bonnie lass,  
So deep in luve am I;  
And I will luve thee still, my dear,  
Till a' the seas gang dry:

Till a' the seas gang dry, my dear,  
And the rocks melt wi' the sun;  
I will luve thee still, my dear,  
While the sands o' life shall run.

And fare thee weel, my only Luve,  
And fare thee weel awhile!  
And I will come again, my Luve,  
Tho' it ware ten thousand mile.

### TO THE ROSE: SONG BY ROBERT HERRIC 1591-1674

Go, happy Rose, and interwove  
With other flowers, bind my Love.  
Tell her, too, she must not be  
Longer flowing, longer free,  
That so oft has fetter'd me.

Say, if she's fretful, I have bands  
Of pearl and gold, to bind her hands;  
Tell her, if she struggle still,  
I have myrtle rods at will,  
For to tame, though not to kill.

Take thou my blessing thus, and go  
And tell her this,—but do not so!—  
Lest a handsome anger fly  
Like a lightning from her eye,  
And burn thee up, as well as I!

## VOLUNTEER PROFILE: CISCOE MORRIS

LEE NEFF AND NITA-JO ROUNTREE

ASK CISCOE MORRIS where he got his name “Ciscoe” and he will tell you that as a kid, “I loved the TV show *Ciscoe Kid*, so my friends and my six brothers and sisters starting calling me Ciscoe; I even wore a sombrero.”

And the name stuck. His family also gave him other gifts he likes to share: “We are a very talkative group; we are all storytellers.”

In addition, Ciscoe’s dad was in vaudeville. When that was no longer popular, he opened a dance studio where he met Ciscoe’s mother. They became a dancing team performing widely. Therefore, Ciscoe comes by his bent for entertaining naturally.

He even served as a communications tech in the Navy Reserves during the Vietnam War. How could he not end up on the radio?

The question is, how did gardening become such a calling? Ciscoe begins that story by referring to his grandmother, Maude O’Hara. He loved to garden with her and with his mother.

When he was ten years old, “I saw a sign at a nearby church seeking a part-



*NHS board member, radio, and TV personality, Ciscoe Morris donates huge amounts of his time and energies to non-profit causes*

time gardener.” He applied five times before they finally gave in.

“At first the full-time gardener, Joe—a World War II veteran who was averse to gardening with chemicals—wasn’t happy about having a ten-year-old assistant, but when he saw my enthusiasm, he started teaching me how to garden without chemicals, organically.”

In addition to his grandmother, mother, and Joe, George Pinyuh, the now retired Washington State University Extension agent for King and Pierce counties, was one of Ciscoe’s important gardening mentors. “George had me as a guest on his radio show a few times, and when he hurt his back and had to be away for a while, they asked me to fill in. That led to my own show.”

Want to learn more from Ciscoe? In characteristic fashion, when asked about the name of the book he is working on, he chuckles. “I wanted to call it *How to Kill a Lawn*, but the editors like *Designing the Collector’s Garden*

better.” Let’s hope a final decision hasn’t been made yet!

Meet Ciscoe at the NHS’s “Sweets and Salads” fundraiser in Denise Lane’s Medina garden on July 25. See page 11 for more information or go to our website at [www.northwesthort.org](http://www.northwesthort.org). 🌿

*Lee Neff and Nita-Jo Rountree are Ciscoe Morris admirers and fans.*

### ~ WELCOME NEW MEMBERS ~

Marilee Ahalt  
Vicki Bailey  
Tiia Barrett  
Jeanne Dowd  
Danielle Ernest  
Kate Farley

Karen Gardner  
Sandy Hamilton  
Cindy Hazard  
Mary Kennedy  
Kim Manley  
Diane Mettler

Judy O’Callahan  
Rod Parke  
Susan Ragan-Stuart  
Kimberley Toal  
Elizabeth Torrance  
Jean Van Hollebeke

Jennifer Veninga  
Terry Jo Johnson Wing  
Deidre Wood  
Katherine Yost

# MILLER LIBRARY NEWS

BRIAN THOMPSON



TO GROW BEAUTIFUL ROSES YOU NEED THREE THINGS: moist and fertile soil, plenty of sunshine, and the Miller Library.

What? You didn't know about this last requirement? Why, it may be the most important one of all.

"When should I plant bare root roses?" "When is the best time of year to prune back heavily?" "What is a source for disease-resistant roses in our climate?"

These questions, and many more, are answered in the Garden Answers Knowledgebase found at the Miller Library website ([www.millerlibrary.org](http://www.millerlibrary.org)). While you may already have a favorite source for garden answers, the Miller staff draws their answers from many recommended sources, so you get the best of the best.

This database is developed from questions submitted to the Plant Answer Line. (See the entry form, also on the website.) You can submit your own questions, specific to your needs, or browse the many questions submitted by others, searchable by key words. For example, have you heard of burying banana peels around your roses to prevent black spot? Does it work? Look it up in the Knowledgebase to find out!

You can also check out the "Roses" booklist of recommended books and other resources on roses. Rebecca Alexander develops these booklists and is also our Plant Answer Line Librarian. While she recommends several excellent reference books on roses, she finds two from Pacific Northwest authors the most useful.

*Roses for the Pacific Northwest* (Steller Press, 1999) by Christine Allen and *North Coast Roses: For the Maritime Northwest Gardener* (Sasquatch Press, 1993) by Rhonda Massingham Hart have stood the test of some time. Both provide excellent lists of varieties, including old and species roses, that do particularly well for us, and recommend cultural practices that are fitting for our climate, soils, and other special conditions.

So when planning, planting, and tending your roses, or anything else in your garden, remember the Miller Library. No, we won't send out a team of librarians to read to your rugosas, but we have many ways to help you help them give years of gardening pleasure.

Miller Library summer hours, July 1 through September 4:  
Monday, 4:00 pm to 8:00 pm, Tuesday-Friday, 9:00 am to 5:00 pm,  
closed on Saturday and Sunday. 🌻

*Brian Thompson is the manager and curator of horticultural literature for the Elisabeth C. Miller Library.*

## ~ THANKS TO OUR 2010 PATRONS ~

*The Wednesday Evening Lecture Series would not be possible without the tremendous support of our patrons. Their generosity helps NHS provide a world-class educational program for Northwest gardeners. Thank you, patrons!*

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Barbara Asmervig &	Mary Helen Krock
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Douglas Bayley	Judy Massong
Charlotte Behnke	Gillian Mathews
Matthew Berberich	Pamela McAlpine
Suzette & Jim Birrell	McComb Gardens
Constance Bollen	Shirley McEvoy
Elisabeth Bottler	Renee Montgelas
Sara Bowe	Ciscoe Morris
Jayne Bray	Maureen Morris
Carol Burton	Sue Moss
Whit Carhart	John & Lee Neff
G. Maria Carlos	Charles Ogburn
Barbara Carman	Sue Olsen—Foliage Gardens
Geraldine Cherry	Mary Palmer
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Deborah Heg	Steve & Pauline Smith—
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Jocelyn C. Horder	Carrie Sparlin
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Lisa Irwin	Philip Stoller
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Becky Johnson	Swansons Nursery
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Antje Kretschmer	Joanne White
Laura Kvasnosky	Carolyn Whittlesey
Denise Lane	Madeleine Wilde
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# THE STORY OF PLANTS: 'PEACE' HYBRID TEA ROSE

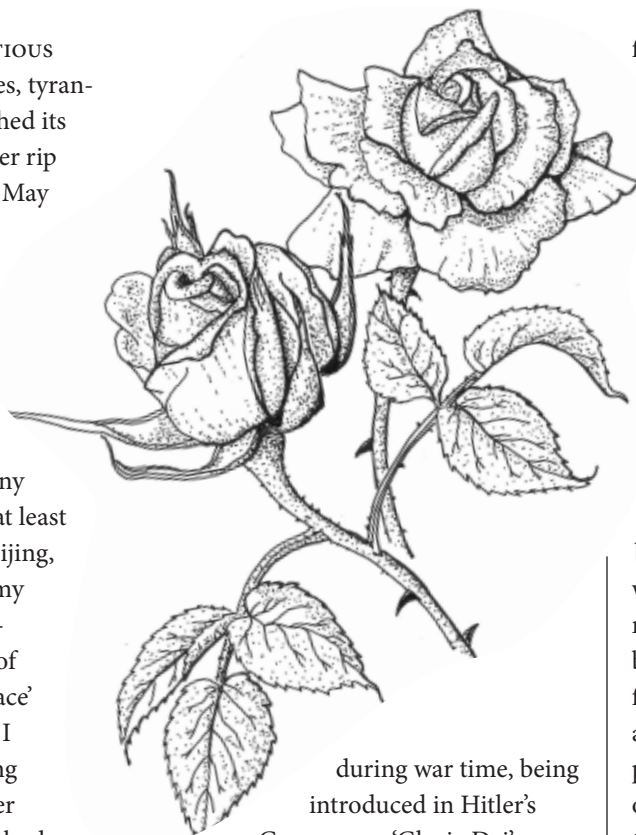
DANIEL MOUNT

ILLUSTRATION BY SYLVIA PORTILLO

MY FIFTY-YEAR-LONG CONTENTIOUS relationship with hybrid tea roses, tyrannical at best, seems to have reached its end. Five years ago I would rather rip one out than fuss with it. But in May I buried my hatchet and bought 'Peace', the "World's Most Popular Rose," a title given to it by the World Federation of Rose Societies in 1976.

It is estimated there are over fifty million 'Peace' rose plants world-wide, nearly as many as dandelions in my garden, or at least the combined populations of Beijing, Moscow, and Mexico City. But my choice was based more on sentiment than on a need to be part of the crowd. My mother grew 'Peace' in the Milwaukee garden where I was raised. Her seasonal covering and uncovering of the crown, her patience in "waiting for the first buds to show up" were some of my first lessons in becoming a gardener. Unlike my mother, and the French rose hybridizer, François Meilland, creator of 'Peace', I was more taken with garish zinnias than pretty roses at the time.

In 1935, François, a young man already deeply involved in rose hybridizing, had selected no. 3-35-40, along with 50 other promising seedlings among thousands, to be grown in his family's nursery in Provence. When the first flowers appeared on it in 1936, François knew he had created his masterpiece so he named it after his beloved mother, 'Mme A. Meilland'. By the time it was ready for distribution World War II had started. Yet 'Peace' was unstoppable even



during war time, being introduced in Hitler's

Germany as 'Gloria Dei'

('Gloria of God') and in Mussolini's Italy as 'Gioia' ('Joy'). François saw an exceptional future in 'Mme A. Meilland' and made great efforts to make sure a package of buds made it on the last American plane out of occupied France. These buds were delivered to his friend and fellow rose breeder Robert Pyle in Pennsylvania. On April 29, 1945, Pyle introduced it, with the blessings of François, at the Pacific Rose Society's Exhibition with the new name 'Peace'. It was the same day Berlin fell to allied troops. Later that year, in one of the most successful rose promotions of all time, a flower was presented to each of the fifty delegates at the inaugural session of the United Nations in San Francisco. The

future of 'Peace' was secured. Fortunately for the Meilland family, Pyle had taken out a patent in François's name. The royalties from the sales of 'Peace' made the Meilland family rich enough to build one of the premier rose nurseries in the world.

From the 1945 All-American Rose Selection Gold Medal, the first time for a new rose, to the more recent RHS Award of Garden Merit in 1993, 'Peace' remains a success.

What makes 'Peace' so exceptional among hybrid teas is its vigor. It can be a large bush up to four feet tall and wide with glossy dark green foliage, making it beautiful even when not in bloom. But it is the large round mildly fragrant flowers, which Pyle described as having "pale gold, cream, and ivory petals blending to a slightly ruffled edge of delicate carmine," which endears it to the world.

A friend once told me he didn't know if he thought roses were beautiful because their publicity was so good or if they were truly beautiful. I can say I am susceptible to the same skepticism. But I've decided to lay down my sword, or my loppers as the case might be. Starting with 'Peace' I'm giving hybrid teas a chance. 🌹

*Read more of Daniel's thoughts on plants and gardening on his blog [www.danielmountgardens.blogspot.com](http://www.danielmountgardens.blogspot.com).*

*Sylvia Portillo is a botanical illustrator and student at South Seattle Community College. She can be reached at [sportil@comcast.net](mailto:sportil@comcast.net).*

# A ROSE FOR RICHIE

LEE NEFF AND RICHIE STEFFEN

**To:** *richies@millergarden.org*

**From:** *leecneff@comcast.net*

NOW, RICHIE, DON'T BE cross. I am long overdue in giving you a birthday present (six months, actually), but I have finally thought of what I want to give you: a rose! I know this is a genus of plants that you sometimes sneer at, so I thought you might deserve a rose that is primarily known for its immense red thorns: *Rosa sericea* ssp. *omeiensis* f. *pteracantha*! (With all those names, it might as well be a rhododendron!) But it is really a rose for a genuine rose connoisseur, so I am going to choose one that is better known for its simple sophistication. Let me know what you think of this idea.

—Tardily, Lee

**To:** *Lee*

**From:** *Richie*

Humph!

**To:** *Richie*

**From:** *Lee*

Well, that wasn't much of a response! But I will try to be patient. Here's my plan: You know good and well that you have too many rhododendrons—but, as far as I know, you have yet to find a good climbing rhody. And do you realize that Great Plant Picks is equally prejudiced? Forty-five rhododendrons have been selected and only 19 roses. Surely, that error will be corrected!

So, my gift for you is a huge climbing rose that will cover one of the tall cedars or firs in your garden with thousands of small white flowers—then garden visitors will have something to look at when all of your rhododendrons are just sitting there with their leaves on. Isn't this a great idea?

—Hopefully, Lee



*Rosa mulliganii* (Richie Steffen)

**To:** *Lee*

**From:** *Richie*

Groan. I will start buying up all the black mondo grass I can find, so I have something to complement the inevitable black spot. Just please spare me a rose named for Dolly Parton or Duchess Somebody.

—With infinite patience, Richie

**To:** *Richie*

**From:** *Lee*

No, no, Richie! I would never commit such a sin. This rose is named for a respectable gentleman. Furthermore, it never gets black spot! I will give you a few hints: In the trade, this rose is often confused with *Rosa longicuspis*. A summer bloomer, it is almost as vigorous as *R. filipes* 'Kiftgate' the largest of the climbing roses. It can climb 40 to 60 feet, and its white flowers, with yellow centers, are held in large trusses—sometimes with more than 100 blooms! The flowers are followed by hundreds of small, red-orange hips. This rose truly has year-round interest—not just a few moments of glory, like some

rhododendrons we know. Just think how the bees and birds will love you. And its final attributes: it tolerates poor soil and partial shade. Imagine!

Now here are your last clues: It was "discovered" in China between 1915 and 1917, but amazingly, it is named for an important Seattle plantsman. How about that?

—Lee

**To:** *Lee*

**From:** *Richie*

Hmmm.... Jim Fox? John Wott? Dan Hinkley? Ciscoe Morris?

**To:** *Richie*

**From:** *Lee*

No, no, no! Not that famous! Tell me if you recognize the source of this sentence: "Brian Mulligan, former curator of the Washington Park Arboretum, sorted out its identity, and it was named for him."

—Lee

**To:** *Lee*

**From:** *Richie*

All right. OK. *Rosa mulliganii*. And that sentence comes from the Great Plant Picks website, doesn't it? I guess I should start by trying out one of the roses we actually recommend for this region. But I want you to know, it will never replace *Rhododendron canadense* in my affection! Only a little bit grudgingly, I thank you for such a thoughtful gift.

—Almost converted, Richie

*Lee Neff is always trying to convert somebody and Richie Steffen is only partly converted (and not one bit repentant about that fact).*

# NHS BULLETIN BOARD

## ~ UPCOMING CLASSES & DAY TOURS ~

### TUESDAY, JULY 6, 10:00 AM-12:00 PM Garden Design with Rick Kyper

Rick Kyper is an extraordinary garden designer who has a passion for rare and unusual plants. He will illustrate in his own garden how to combine plant collecting into a seamless design through emphasizing color. This class is for intermediate to advanced students.

LOCATION: KYPER GARDEN/SEATTLE

FEE: MEMBERS: \$25.00 NON-MEMBERS: \$35.00 LIMIT: 15

### FRIDAY, JULY 16, 8:30 AM-6:00 PM Sustainable South Whidbey Island Tour

Visit four gardens, including The Raven and the Spade, the organic potager garden of member Camille LaTray recently featured in *The Seattle Times*, and the garden at Hedgebrook, a retreat for women writers. Lunch on the tour will be from local Whidbey gardens.

LOCATION: WHIDBEY ISLAND

FEE: MEMBERS: \$48.00 NON-MEMBERS: \$68.00 LIMIT: 35

### WEDNESDAY, JULY 28, 8:30 AM-6:00 PM Gig Harbor Tour

Enjoy a relaxing day visiting the maritime village of Gig Harbor. Garden designer Sue Goetz will lead a garden tour into six unique, private gardens that bathe in our maritime climate for the perfect summer outing. Highlights include a visit to an elegant Asian style setting chosen by the Smithsonian Institute to be included in its archives of outstanding American gardens. Ideas that will inspire include a visit to a waterfront hillside of large boulders inter-planted by an avid gardener and plant collector.

LOCATION: GIG HARBOR/FOX ISLAND

FEE: MEMBERS: \$48.00 NON-MEMBERS: \$68.00 LIMIT: 35

### THURSDAY, AUGUST 5, 10:00 AM-12:00 PM Creating a Planting Plan from a Vase with Jim Fox

Jim will take cuttings of flowers and leaves from the garden and arrange them in a vase. He does this not to create a centerpiece, but to plan planting combinations for the garden. He will show you how to arrange these cut flowers and other plant material in a container to create planting groups, form good color mixes, and interesting textures when creating garden plantings.

LOCATION: PATRICK GARDEN/BELLEVUE

FEE: MEMBERS: \$25.00 NON-MEMBERS: \$35.00 LIMIT: 15

### WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 18, 10:00 AM - 1:00 PM Garden Photography 101 with Charles Needle

Nationally known photographer Charles Needle will teach a three hour beginner's photography class. The class will be held in the magnificent garden of Alison Andrews in The Highlands. Charles will use the beautiful plantings in this garden to illustrate how to properly frame a picture, determine lighting requirements, and special effects. Bring your camera or your iPhone to learn how to capture the beauty of your own garden.

LOCATION: ANDREWS GARDEN/SEATTLE

FEE: MEMBERS: \$35.00 NON-MEMBERS: \$45.00 LIMIT: 15

FOR RESERVATIONS E-MAIL [NWHORT@AOL.COM](mailto:NWHORT@AOL.COM)  
OR CALL KARIN KRAVITZ AT 206-780-8172

## ~ 2010 NHS GRANTS ~

### 2010 NHS GRANTS OFFERED

The NHS Board has made grant funds available for 2010 and is currently accepting grant applications for consideration. The award of 2010 Grants will be made at the 2010 NHS General Meeting. Applications must be received by August 27, 2010, and should include the following:

- A narrative describing the project and the goals of the project (not to exceed two pages).
- A description of the applicant, i.e., individual, non-profit company or institution, or other. A list of key individuals involved in the project, and directors and officers, if applicable.
- The amount requested and the project budget. The applicant should note whether follow-on funding will be required, whether matching funds or other funding is available, and whether the applicant has received NHS funding in the past.
- A copy of the applicant's annual report (if any) and most recent financial statement.
- The project timeline and schedule. Include the date by which NHS will receive a report on the success of the project and a copy of the completed work, if applicable.
- Name(s) of the person(s) to whom correspondence should be addressed, and who will report on the project to the NHS Grant Committee.

## ~ SAVE THE DATES! ~

### 2010 MILLER LECTURE THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 16, 7:30 PM

#### Plants Of The Chatham Islands Gordon Sydney Collier

LOCATION: MEANY HALL, UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON  
RESERVATIONS WILL BE TAKEN BEGINNING IN MID-AUGUST.

### 2010 NHS FALL PLANT SALE Friday, September 17, 2010, noon-6:00 PM Saturday, September 18, 2010, 9:00 AM-2:00 PM

WARREN G. MAGNUSON PARK  
7400 SAND POINT WAY, SEATTLE

## ~ PACIFIC HORTICULTURE PRESENTS ~

### Gardening Under Mediterranean Skies VIII Symposium Style & Whimsy in the Sustainable Garden

SEPTEMBER 23-26, 2010  
PASADENA, CALIFORNIA

See <http://www.pacifichorticulture.org/education-events/gardening-under-mediterranean-skies-viii/>



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

HANS MANDT

THE PAST YEAR OR SO, I have been taking a step back and re-evaluating our woodland garden. My wife Tina tells me it's too busy—too much going on, and though I don't admit it to her, I know she's right. I have been aware that it is hard to make a garden in a relatively small space if you have large collections of plants. If you don't have some cohesion, no matter how rare or diverse the collection, it just doesn't make for a great garden. My friend Richard Hartlage told me some years ago that a sensible approach to collecting a genus is to start with a large collection of species, say twenty-five or so, plant them out, and evaluate them in your garden. More than half of them will not do well in your conditions or will just die. Of the remaining plants, select the best three or four species and grow those in the parts of your garden where they thrive.

If you love plants, editing is the hardest part of gardening, but the best gardens are ruthlessly edited. So, I've been trying to learn from this advice. I'm taking out all my hostas. They're just slug food in our garden, and I'm keeping one or two in pots where there's a chance of having them slug free. This frees up space to plant some interesting ferns in their place. I've also given away a *Dicksonia squarrosa*, which I bought at an NHS auction and had for a number of years. It has survived the last two winters with extra care, but takes half the summer for new fronds to appear, whereas my *D. antarctica* is in full regalia by mid April, so I'm adding two more of them. More cohesion, fewer species, better garden viewing. I'm also in the process of editing my arisaemas and podophyllums—larger groupings of fewer species. I'll know that I'm really serious about editing when I start removing hellebores.

Our two spring events, the Spring Ephemeral Plant Sale followed a week later by the 2010 Spring Symposium were both well attended and very successful. The plant sale, which is in its third year, has garnered quite a following, and NHS expects it to be carried well into the future. This year's symposium celebrated American garden design, beginning with garden historian Judith Tankard looking at two of America's premier women designers practicing in the early twentieth century: Beatrix Farrand and Ellen Shipman. Then we saw gardens from two brilliant designers practicing today: Craig Bergmann, working in the Midwest around Chicago, and Bernard Trainor's work in California. The final speaker, Paul Kephart, is a dedicated ecologist and the leading designer of green roofs in the Western hemisphere today. Among his projects, the two and a half acre roof of the new Academy of Sciences building in Golden Gate Park is amazing. Most attendees also mentioned how well the presentations complemented each other. 🌱

*Hans Mandt is the president of NHS.*

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## SWEETS AND SALADS LUNCH IN THE GARDEN

SUNDAY, JULY 25, 11:30 AM TO 2:30 PM

JOIN CISCOE MORRIS AND RICHIE STEFFEN for our NHS fundraiser! Feast on a vast array of savory salads, sumptuous breads, and delicious desserts in the incredible garden of Denise Lane in Medina on **Sunday, July 25**. Richie Steffen will auction a few choice plants and garden art pieces, including a dinosaur egg orb donated by Joyce Hawkins. Next, Ciscoe will talk about plants you can't live without and how to make them thrive. Then tour the garden with Ciscoe or Richie while sipping fine wine. Denise's garden is greatly in demand for tours because it is not only filled with eye-popping plant material and imported giant boulders but also with custom designed garden art. In addition to an outdoor kitchen, and a Little and Lewis ruin, she recently added an



*Little and Lewis ruin in Denise Lane's garden  
(Roger McDonald)*

amazing hand-carved tree trunk by Stanley Rill and a custom designed double gate by Robert Madsen. You can have a fun-filled day while supporting NHS! Tickets are \$65.00. Contact Karin Kravitz at [nwhort@aol.com](mailto:nwhort@aol.com) or 206-780-8172. 🌱



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NITA-JO ROUNTREE

Rosa 'Graham Thomas', Rosa 'Honey Perfume', Rosa 'Milestone', Phlox 'Mt Fuji', Salvia guaranitica, and Hedychium 'Tara'  
"I once had a rose named after me and I was very flattered. But I was not pleased to read the description in the catalogue: no good in a bed, but fine up against a wall." *Eleanor Roosevelt, 1884-1962, American first lady, UN delegate, and human rights activist.*