

# Matterhorn comes up roses

## English-style garden opens for tours at Rockland nursery

Dorothea Smith  
For The Journal News

Matt and Ronnie Horn of Matterhorn Nursery in Spring Valley are not known for doing anything halfway.

Since starting their business 23 years ago, they have won many prizes for horticultural excellence as they built a nursery that's one of the finest in the country.

This year, all the stops have been pulled with the opening of the nursery's David Austin Rose Garden, which has been in the making for four years.

The English-style rose garden opens Saturday to about 200 invited guests from the horticultural world. They will be greeted by the principals of Matterhorn Nursery and David Austin Rose Garden of the United Kingdom.

From noon to 5 p.m. Sunday, the new garden will be open free of charge to the public. From then on, visitors touring the garden will be asked to pay a nominal fee (\$5 for adults, \$4 for seniors, \$3 for



Stephen Schmitt/The Journal News  
A golden celebration rose on display in the David Austin Rose Garden at Matterhorn Nursery.

Matterhorn members and \$2 for children ages 3 to 12) to defray costs.

Earlier this week, the Horns and their longtime friend and gardener, Michael Ruggiero, were adding finishing touches to the

### If you go

**Address:** David Austin Rose Garden at Matterhorn Nursery, 227 Summit Park Road, Spring Valley.  
**Telephone:** 845-354-5986.  
**Web site:** [www.matterhornnursery.com](http://www.matterhornnursery.com).

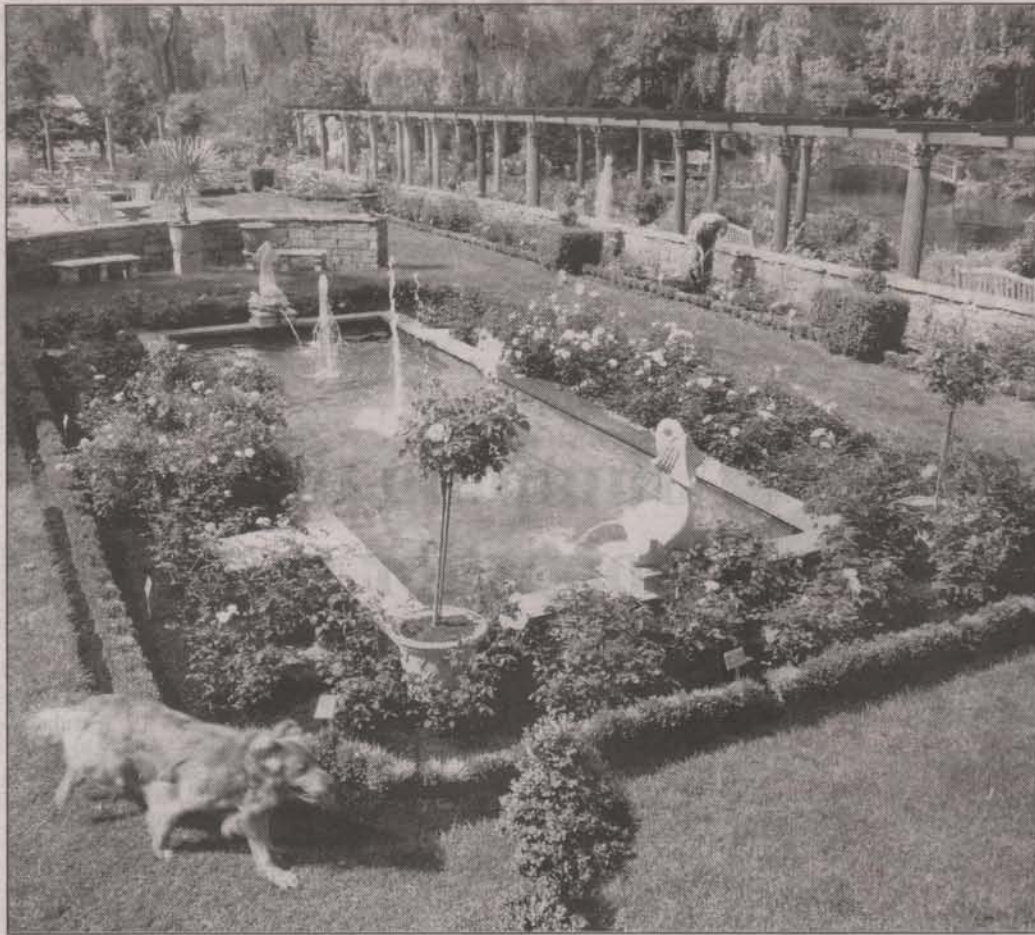
garden, along with about 15 employees.

"I wish it really were time to smell the roses," Matt Horn quipped to Ruggiero. Around them, interns from the New York Botanical Garden in the Bronx and horticulture students from State University of New York at Cobleskill were planting feverishly, filling borders with a variety of bulbs, perennials and shrubs interspersed among the roses.

This is the first official David Austin Rose Garden erected outside the United Kingdom. Matterhorn was selected by David Austin Sr., David Austin Jr. and Michael Marriott, the Austins' rosarian, from a field of six top American nurseries, says Matt Horn.

Jan Austin, an artist who is the wife of David Austin, Sr. has designed a special bronze sculpture

Please see ROSES, 2E



Photos by Stephen Schmitt/The Journal News

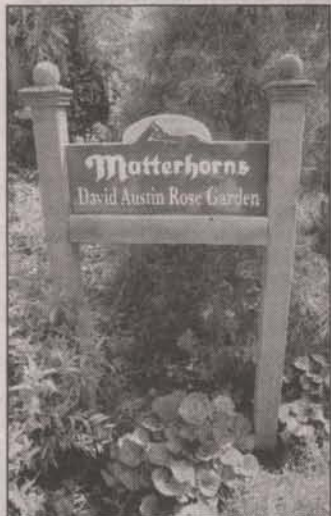
The David Austin Rose Garden at Matterhorn Nursery.

## David Austin is coming to America

### ROSES, from 1E

for the garden. It is to arrive today.

The roses were donated by the Austins, while Matterhorn built and supplied the rest of the gar-



The sign welcoming visitors to the David Austin Rose Garden.

den. A tough and hardy new David Austin rose, 'The Mayflower,' a small shrub with medium-sized light pink roses that flowers through the season, was named to mark the opening of the Matterhorn garden. It, along with all the other plants featured in the garden, will be for sale at the nursery.

Introduced 40 years ago, David Austin's fragrant English roses are popular with American gardeners because they combine the finest characteristics of Old Roses while being able to reflower and resist disease. The new roses also feature colors more typical of modern roses, the Austins say.

The walled formal garden is designed to resemble the Renaissance style, with its long rectangular channel of water and fountains.

Visitors may well be inspired and want to learn more after seeing the new 4-acre rose garden. The design also includes the surrounding perennial and shrub borders, ornamental grass, fern, hosta and Japanese gardens.

"It takes a group effort," Matt

Horn says, noting how many friends and family members have offered to help with the garden.

"It's been a struggle ... We're doing this for the love of gardening."