

Dabney Rose Botanics

BY TANJA HOAGLAND
EDITOR

I first experienced one of Dabney's hydrosols six months ago. The experience was amazing! It was a rose hydrosol spray and every time I misted my face, the cold winter disappeared and I was transported to a summer rose garden in full bloom.

Dabney Rose is one of our most recent local suppliers, but she's been creating her amazing hydrosol blends for more than 20 years.

"I've been playing with fragrant plants since childhood. As a new mother interested in health and well being, I became interested in aromatherapy in 1985. My dad, then a chemist, set me up with my first boiling flask and condensing tube in '87, and I've been distilling ever since," Dabney said during a recent interview.

"Hydrosols have been around for thousands of years but very few people know what they are. They are produced in the same manner as essential oils, but are actually a more complete 'blueprint' of the plant as they contain both the water and oil soluble components. Hydrosols are the gentle, subtle aromatherapy, and they smell 'truer' to the actual flower. Rose hydrosol smells more 'rose' than the oil. Today, most 'rose-waters' are actually processed in laboratories by mixing partially synthetic rose oil and

water. Very sad!"

She is an alchemist of scents and her passion comes through in her finished products.

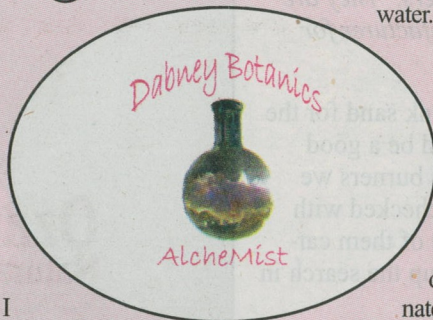
Her methods are old school. It would be difficult, if not impossible, to find a large-scale company following the same level of craftsmanship. "Most of the flowers and herbs that I distill I grow myself organically or wild-craft, Dabney said. "I don't even like to water them with chlorinated hose water!" In addition to her hydrosols,

Dabney has created a line of perfumes

with the same attention to detail. "I

use only high-quality oils and carrier oils. A high-quality perfume requires months of aging and can not (or should not!) be dashed off in a few hours or days. But it is a wonderful way to really pamper yourself, and we could all use more of that!"

Every year she adds new flowers, leaves, fruit, spices, roots and resins to her lineup of products. Currently, we're carrying two hydrosols from her Face Treats line: Raspberry Rose and Chocolate Raspberry Rose. They are designed for mature



or dry skin. "I gear a lot of my hydrosols for skin care because they are just the best thing I have ever put on my skin. They create a finer skin texture (sometimes you can feel this working) *and* they release tension from the psyche. What more is there? The fragrances work on the emotional, mental and spiritual levels as well as cellularly (is that a word?) on the physical level. Right now, ONF is carrying my 'Face Treats,' which thrills me.

"I am interested in how fragrance interacts with the psyche," she added. "I also feel our faces are the interface (a superb pun here) with our inner selves and, for that, I am keenly convinced in the value of face sprays for upliftment. That's where our nose is, that's where our smile is. Knowing what these scents do for us should be a lot more mainstream. We like to keep a spray in the car, because driving creates it's own stress.

"A lot of flowers, especially rose, are high on the megahertz scale and do affect our brainwaves. I don't think people quite grasp how 'obviously' smelling something pleasant can shift their energies. Fragrance is the quickest 'pick me up' that I am aware of. And not just that, studies have shown that classroom learning can increase as much as 230 percent when florals are inhaled."

I agree with Dabney. Every time I use her hydrosols, I feel a positive benefit to my spirits, along with softer skin! Can it get better than that? Try it out for yourself in our Health and

Beauty Aids department, or visit Dabney (www.dabney-rose.com) to see her full line of exquisite hydrosols.

