



# SUSTAINING BEAUTY

A CAPE LANDSCAPER  
SHARES THE ART OF  
GREEN DESIGN

by dan dewey | photos by michael mclaughlin


Sensitive to the shape and scale of a Wareham seaside site, Angela Rose designed a series of separate, yet complementary stonewalls in an organic fashion along the edge of the property's sprawling entrance lawn.



***One of the greatest challenges*** Cape Cod's professional landscapers face is how to balance customers' expectations with the impact that landscaping services have on a fragile, largely overpopulated environment. Surrounded by water, this narrow spit of sandy land offers limited space for plantings that must thrive in an often hostile ecosystem with highly stressed natural resources.

Falmouth's Angela Rose of Angela Rose Gardens & Landscapes is constantly aware of the need to create landscape designs that work in harmony with an ever-changing seaside environment. A college graduate with a degree in art who recently received a certificate in horticulture from Cape Cod Community College, Rose gained years of invaluable hands-on experience working for local landscape companies in the area, then launched her own business in 2006. She combines a keen sense of garden design with a passionate desire to work the land responsibly. To meet her customers' financial and scheduling needs, she has established connections with local contractors, taking projects from the crucial design phase all the way through the installation process.

The majority of the young Cape native's customers live near the water and she often finds herself educating clients about methods of installing and maintaining plantings that are close to seaside environs. Starting literally from the ground up, she stresses the importance of using locally produced compost derived from grass clippings and leaves on established plantings in the spring and fall. Additionally, at the time of planting, Rose adds organic compost to the existing soil. This practice conditions and strengthens the soil with organic



By selecting low-maintenance perennials and shrubs such as pink coneflowers and several Knock-Out rose varieties, Rose provided the homeowner with constant bloom from April to late October.

content, increasing the presence of microorganisms that play a crucial role in the overall health of each planting.

Once she has established a healthy planting medium, Rose chooses plant material that is both drought-tolerant and able to withstand a windy exposed marine environment without needing extensive amounts of fertilizer, soil amendments, or irrigation. She explains that the perennials she selects thrive naturally on the Cape, such as re-blooming daylilies, perennial geraniums, catmint, Russian Sage, Black-Eyed Susan, and other sturdy perennials. She often mixes in groupings of beach grass and hearty flowering shrubs to provide geometry and color. Such plants will bloom reliably year in and year out and are at their peak during the Cape's high-profile summer season.

An extensive 2008 Wareham project showcases Rose's ability to create visually arresting designs without compromising environmental principles. Encompassing a one-acre spread with stunning water views, Rose worked with the customer to provide visually effective plantings around the property that deliver show-stopping color and texture, especially during the Cape's Memorial to Labor Day season. The client showed Rose a landscape design story in an old issue of *Cape Cod Life*, explaining that he wanted something similar to a rolling landscape with a series of colorful plantings. The design combined flowering shrubs like Hydrangea with a wide choice of perennials.

Rose's concept for several perennial borders, driveway gardens, and foundation plantings met the customer's expressed desire for lots of summer color and presence. She created a series of harmonious, large planting beds that run parallel to the driveway, which are highlighted by hardwoods such as Katsura and Linden trees, mature Rhododendron that flower in the early summer, and a vast array of perennials planted in vivid masses. The larger trees and shrubs



balance out the borders surrounding the spacious residence. The height and size of the mature plantings also frame visual vignettes designed around several garden structures and the homeowner's collection of classic statuary.

"The large shrubs were key to the installation because we needed the plantings to look as if they had always been there," says Rose. Just two seasons later, skillfully coordinated trees, shrubs, and perennials offer a continuous round of seasonal beauty. Early-to-mid-summer perennials such as Phlox and Happy Return day lilies are followed by the warm autumnal hues of Helianthus, Agastache, and Sedum. Summer flowering shrubs such as Spirea, Hydrangea, and "Knock-Out" shrub roses are softened by groupings of beach grasses and evergreens. Small trees with interesting bark or fine foliage such as white birch and several spectacular Japanese maples give each planting area definition and textural interest.

Rose effectively connected the sprawling house to the landscape through the inclusion of stonewalls in three border plantings running alongside a lengthy driveway that curves from a handsome gated entrance. The stonewalls anchor each planting and are comprised of the same stone

chosen for the house's construction. Rose explains that she suggested creating three complementary, yet distinct hardscape features, rather than one long continuous, visually overwhelming stonewall. "The customer wanted a stone wall to border the driveway and I ended up taking that and breaking it into three," she explains. In addition to being divided in to three sections, the stone walls are gracefully curved in an organic

fashion, reflecting the designer's instinctive understanding that nature should not be defined by man-made straight lines.

For the good of her customers and of the earth around them, Rose chooses "the right plant for the right place," respects the interconnected needs of the Cape's threatened marine environment, and helps customers visualize their potential landscape by listening to their ideas with sensitivity and providing knowledgeable feedback. Like many Cape landscapers, she is a crucial part of the greening of Cape Cod.

For information, go to [www.angelarosegardens.com](http://www.angelarosegardens.com) or call (508) 444-6703. 🏡

Dan Dewey owns Centerville's Dewey Gardens, [www.deweygardens.com](http://www.deweygardens.com), an organic landscape company specializing in design and installation services.



*Beautiful Properties Begin Here*



**Landscape Design**

---

**Landscape Construction**

---

**Complete Full-Season  
Landscape Maintenance**



**508-428-4772**  
[joycelandscaping.com](http://joycelandscaping.com)