



# Rose Lore



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Mary Van Vlacker, Editor

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## MARCH MEETING

Our next meeting will be March 10 at 7:00 pm. We will continue to meet on Zoom while we await the decline in COVID numbers in Maricopa County.

The feature presentation, entitled “Fertilizer and Pest Control Tools” will be given by our Vice-President, Sherman Weekes and will provide an introduction to tools and ways to fertilize and apply pest control to protect your rose gardens. At the end of the presentation, you will have a better understanding of how to grow stronger, more beautiful roses. Looking forward to having everyone attend this great program. Everyone is welcome!

The link to join the Zoom Meeting is:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/4770043990>

The Meeting ID: 477 004  
3990

If you need help, you may contact Sherman Weekes or Pat Thiel for assistance in using Zoom.

‘New Year’, photo by Sherman Weekes



# PRESIDENT'S LETTER

BY HELEN BAIRD



It is an exciting time as we all come out of Covid hibernation. We have just completed a successful rose auction, thanks to Ryan and his team.

I wish to again thank everyone for working on the pruning of the rose garden. It is almost complete and shortly we will be starting to spread the mulch in the garden.

Our next fund-raising activity is a garden tour on Sunday, April 3, 2022. Since my yard will be on the tour, my Chihuahua has gotten excited about meeting everyone on the tour and showing off her rose garden and vegetable garden. She is so excited about the visit that she is even okay with having a bath before all of you come to visit her.

## ROSE AUCTION 2022

BY RYAN REGEHR

We had another great rose auction this year. The online format has allowed us to reach a larger part of the community and involve people from across the valley. We had more bidders, made more money for the garden and society, and sold more roses than any auction to date.

Most of the roses and supplies were donated from local rose growers and nurseries. We also had 16 roses from K&M Roses that were donated by the nursery and the Morrison's. We are blessed to have so many generous members and local businesses that support our auction.

The auction had a total of 82 bidders this year and 69 different bidders took home the 224 roses and other items. We had bidders from not only the area around Mesa, but also Fountain Hills, Prescott, Tolleson, Maricopa, and Cave Creek. There was one winning bidder that took home 14 different roses. In all, the auction generated \$5,100 for MEVRS and the garden at MCC.

We are already planning the auction for 2023. There are many ways that you can contribute and I think the biggest is donating roses. If you do not have your own roses, there is another way to contribute. Bud and Yvonne Morrison came up with the idea to purchase roses from K&M Nursery and donate them directly to the auction. This supports both the auction and a small rose grower in Mississippi. If you are planning to make a donation to the society or want to support the auction this way, please reach out to me and I can support and share all of the details.

I would like to thank all of those that supported the auction and MEVRS that so generously gave their time and energy to collect donations, help pot roses, transport roses, and make the distribution a seamless process. It is these contributions that made the 2022 MEVRS Rose Auction a success.

# THE MEVRS LIVE ROSE TOURS ARE BACK!

Please join us to visit some of the MEVRS members' rose gardens LIVE AND IN PERSON on Sunday, April 3rd from 1:00 'till 5:00 pm. The tour will begin at 8238 E. Rancho Vista in Scottsdale where you will purchase your tickets (only \$10 per person) and receive the addresses of the other gardens to visit. To avoid excessive congestion on the street and in the garden, we hope you will buy your tickets, move on to visit the other gardens, and then return to tour the Rancho Vista Garden later in the afternoon. There will also be a limited number of tour tickets available at 5881 East Sapphire Lane, Paradise Valley, after 1:00 pm, cash or check purchase only.

All four gardens are located on the northeast side in Scottsdale, Paradise Valley, and North Phoenix. Tickets are only \$10.00 per person, children are FREE for all the gardens on the tour, and will be sold at the first stop. One of the gardens will include a demonstration of photographing roses.

The Mesa East Valley Rose Society welcomes you and encourages you to visit the gardens and learn more about growing roses in Arizona. We hope that you will enjoy this opportunity to share the love of the rose.

Any questions please reach out to the Rose Tour chairs, Yvonne and Bud Morrison [budmorrison22@gmail.com](mailto:budmorrison22@gmail.com). Also visit us at [www.roses4az-mevrs.org](http://www.roses4az-mevrs.org).



'Rosie the Riveter', photo by Yvonne Morrison"

## SPRING ROSE SHOWS ARE COMING – FIRST FOUR WEEKENDS IN APRIL

**Spring is in the air! And with spring comes – Rose Shows!**

### **Glendale, AZ**

Here are four you may wish to consider entering or at least attending to see all the beautiful blooms from home gardens in our area and nearby. These happen the first four weekends in April in Glendale, Tucson, Phoenix, and sunny California.

The Rose Society of Glendale holds their annual show in the Packing Shed at Saguaro Ranch Park in Glendale on the first weekend of the month, Saturday, April 2, 2022 The address for the park is 9802 North 59th Avenue, Glendale, Arizona 85302. Entries will be accepted starting at 6:30 am and Judging will start at approximately 10:00 a.m.



We ask that you wear a mask while in the building if you have not had your COVID vaccinations. We will be limiting the number of people in the show room during judging. The show schedule will be posted at



the RSG website soon, at <https://www.roseglenaz.com/>. For more information, contact Judy Hudgeons at [rknrose@cox.net](mailto:rknrose@cox.net) or Gerry Mahoney at [XRose3@Gmail.com](mailto:XRose3@Gmail.com)

### **Tucson, AZ**

On the second weekend, April 9, The Rose Society of Tucson will host their show at Trinity Presbyterian Church, University Boulevard & 4<sup>th</sup> Ave., Tucson. Entries will be accepted beginning at 6 am, judging will begin at 10, and the show will be free and open to the public from 1 to 4 pm. The show schedule is available now at <http://www.rosesocietyoftucson.org/>. Contact Terry Swartz for information - [rosedude.ts@gmail.com](mailto:rosedude.ts@gmail.com)

### **Phoenix, AZ**

On the third weekend

of the month, it will be the Phoenix Rose Society's turn. Their show will be held at the Valley Garden Center, 1809 N 15<sup>th</sup> Ave, south of Encanto Park on **April 15**, Contact Gerry Mahoney for information at [Rosediva1971@gmail.com](mailto:Rosediva1971@gmail.com)

### **Arcadia, CA**

The fourth big rosy even is the PSW District Convention and Rose Show in Arcadia, CA. The 66<sup>th</sup> Annual Pacific Southwest District Convention & Rose Show will be hosted by Pacific Rose Society on Friday, Saturday and Sunday, April 22, 23 & 24, 2022

Pacific Rose Society will be hosting the 2022 Pacific Southwest District Convention, and all rose enthusiasts across the District are invited to attend this premier rose event. Headquartered at the newly remodeled Courtyard by Marriott in Monrovia, convention goers will have the opportunity to wine and dine along restaurant row on Huntington Drive, shop at Armstrong Garden Centers (across the street), tour the lovely Arboretum and Botanical Gardens in Arcadia, along with visiting with rose friends from around the district. The convention features a fabulous rose show at the Los Angeles County Arboretum on Saturday, an Awards Banquet on Saturday evening, and a district meeting/breakfast on Sunday morning.

CONTACT Chris Greenwood at: [Crisgreen1@aol.com](mailto:Crisgreen1@aol.com) or check the [Pacific Rose Society website for registration and details.](#)

Rose shows give the opportunity to meet.



**Photos: page 3, rose show in the Packing Shed at Saguaro Ranch Park, Glendale; this page top, one of Jim Anderson's stellar exhibition arrangements, middle, LeRoy Brady and placement table, and bottom, placing entries at a PSW District Rose Show. Photos by Mary Van Vlack.**

# NEWS FROM AROUND THE ROSE WORLD



## CONGRATULATIONS

Our congratulations to Dean Baker who just qualified as a Consulting Rosarian!

'Always and Forever', photo by Dean Baker

## ARS WEBINARS

This Saturday, March 12 at 12 noon, MST, ARS is offering a webinar on "**Managing Your Local Rose Society's Social Media.**" If you are or are interested in being involved in MEVRS website, Facebook, or Instagram efforts, this might be for you. Registration is online at <http://rose.org/> or you can contact your editor for the link at <mailto:marywv@gmail.com>.

ARS continues to post on their website copies of the outstanding webinars they have offered during the time of COVID. You may want to check them out at <https://www.rose.org/webinars>. The best one so far in 2022 is **New Roses**. This program includes two parts for rose lovers in warm climates and in the northern areas, which was a very welcome addition this year. Last year there were several good programs and you might especially like to view again the presentation by Kathy Monge on **Chilli Thrips**.

## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS TO MEVRS

Marion Rosenthal      Scottsdale  
Joanne Victory        Tucson  
Mike and Joie Rowley   Mesa  
David Madison         Scottsdale  
Carol Shershenovich   Scottsdale  
Kathleen Umlauf      Tempe

### Mesa East Valley Rose Society (MEVRS) - Membership Application

Annual Family or Individual Membership is \$25.00 Yearly.

Annual Dues are due on June 1<sup>st</sup> every year. Optional - Name Badge are \$10.00 each

Payment can be made with Cash, Check or Credit Card at any meeting or by mail

Mailing Address: MEVRS/Membership, P.O. Box 40394, Mesa, AZ 85274-0394

Amount Paid: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_ Name Badge: Yes / No

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Payment Type: Cash / Check / Credit Card: Visa - Master Card - Discover

Name on Card: \_\_\_\_\_ Card Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Expiration Date: \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_ Billing Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_ CCV Code: \_\_\_\_\_

*Inquire about American Rose Society (ARS) Membership*



## MARCH IN YOUR ROSE GARDEN

By Mary Van Vlack, CR

March is the time of new beginnings in the rose garden. Fresh new foliage covers each plant and the promise of the beautiful roses soon to come gives us reason to smile. It is also the time when careful attention and a little work can make all the difference between a “nice” rose garden and a “fabulous” one.



**Pay attention to your roses.** Walk through your garden several times each week, examining every plant. Watch for signs of powdery mildew and for the arrival of both beneficial and undesirable insects. I have been seeing powdery mildew on my “mildew bell weather” – ‘Black Jade’ - and a couple of other vulnerable roses and there are a few aphids. My first clue to look for aphids is when I see the smaller birds lingering in the roses like something good has caught their fancy. When I go out to investigate, I always find some aphids! Pull any weeds that have started. Look at the new growth, how and where it forms, and the quality.

Watch for signs of new cane breaks from the graft and for suckers. Learn to tell the difference or wait until you can be sure before removing them. Suckers should be snapped off where they form off the root. Cane breaks are treasures of new growth and should be protected from rabbits and clumsy feet. Rabbits have been scarce in my

garden this winter – but the scat left behind by bobcats tells me why. If rabbits are a problem for you, consider using pest repellent sold in big box stores or use tomato cages around the young roses. Once the canes are thicker the rabbits will lose interest.

Consider finger pruning, which is not to be confused with disbudding, a very different process. Rosarians in many parts of the country argue for removing blind shoots and weak growth low on the canes that will not likely produce flowers. Here in the desert we want all the foliage our plants can grow to help them through the summer heat, so many of us do not finger prune or snap off these shoots with our fingers unless they are really blind and produce no leaves at all. Then cut or break them right where they grow from the cane.

Disbudding is something to consider as well. Often a bush will produce a strong center bud along with one or more side buds. If the rose is, for example, a hybrid tea and there is only one side bud, pinch off the side bud as low as you can so that all the nutrients will go to the main bud. If, for example, you have a floribunda that produces a strong central bud and two or more good side buds, pinch out the center bud. Otherwise it will mature and open first, leaving an unsightly hole in the center of what otherwise might be a lovely spray, all flowers opening (almost) at once.

**Planting.** Now is too late to plant bare root roses. Roses in containers can be planted for a few more weeks – if you plan to be here and pay close attention to them through the summer. The nurseries try to extend the planting season by insisting that this is just fine, but I believe that roses have a much higher summer survival rate if



they have time to put out a good root system before the summer heat sets in. Planting late means they do not have much time to develop adequate root systems before our intense heat begins.

**Fertilizing.** One your plants are leafed out it is time to think about feeding them. I've heard lots of famous words on this subject. Bob Martin, the well-known president of ARS, writer, and exhibitor, says "Roses are pigs – they'll eat anything!" and "The best fertilizer is the one on sale." Dave Mahoney, local rosarian, photographer, and judge, argues for working out a fertilization program and sticking with it. Kitty Belendez in California argues for a complex program of weekly applications involving a dozen or more different products. LeRoy Brady argues that in most gardens, all the roses really need is lots of nitrogen. Since humus is meagre in our desert soils, more nitrogen **is** needed. There is much good advice out there on the subject, and there are many, many products that you might consider using. While you will probably develop your own system over time, here are my 10 rules you should follow.



1. Roses need food – don't make them go without – and don't over-feed them all at one time.
2. Learn about the nutrients that roses need. In addition to oxygen, hydrogen and carbon, derived from air and water, they need the macronutrients nitrogen, potassium, and phosphorus (potash). They also need the secondary nutrients calcium, magnesium, and sulfur, and they need micronutrients iron, manganese, boron, zinc, copper, molybdenum, and chlorine. Shortages of any can have visible negative effects.

3. Many of these nutrients are already present in the soil, but some may be tied up or unavailable to the plants because of other soil conditions such as an inappropriate pH or acidity level. You need to know if that is the case.
4. "Organic" fertilizers derive their nitrogen from organic sources such as composted manure from various animals along with fish products. "Inorganic" fertilizers rely on other sources for their nitrogen. Both types usually use inorganic sources for the other nutrients. The rosebush can't tell the difference – it just wants the elemental nutrients. The two nitrogen sources behave a bit differently and, of course, the choice may matter a great deal to you.
5. Roses also don't care about brand names, although they do care very much about getting the nutrients they need and not too much of anything.
6. Read the labels on the products you use – know what you are feeding them, and how much the plants should receive.
7. Some rosarians like to give less food more frequently, often half strength, twice as often. This is to insure a continuous supply of nutrients without burning the roots or new leaves.
8. Be sure your plants have been watered and are well hydrated the day before you fertilize, and then water the products in thoroughly. Wash the fertilizer off the leaves as well since this can burn them.
9. Do not feed newly planted roses until after their first bloom cycle (usually that would be sometime in May).
10. Remember that fertilizers can also damage or even kill roses, usually from applying too much and/or not providing sufficient water. Fertilizers release salts as they break down, and excess salts will burn.
11. Some cultivars do not like much fertilizer, like 'Brandy', and will respond badly. Pay attention to which of your roses feels this way and respect that by giving them less.

Dry combination fertilizers with organic nitrogen sources include Mills Magic, Miller's Rose Fertilizer, and Berridge's Rose Food. Dry combination products containing a wide variety of elements include Organo Rose Food and Vigoro Rose Food; many rosarians find citrus food acceptable and less expensive, especially for large gardens. Combination liquid fertilizers often used on roses include MagnumGro, MiracleGro, and Super Bloom. Other products often used include wettable sulfur, magnesium sulfate (Epson salts), chelated iron (but not Ironite), triple super phosphate or bone meal (both provide phosphorous, but organic bone meal is very slow to become available in our soils), fish emulsion (organically sourced nitrogen and trace elements), blood meal (organically sourced nitrogen), alfalfa meal, pellets, or tea, and composted manure.

Dogs and other animals are very sensitive to many of the organic products, inevitably digging holes around the roses, looking for the bones and dead fish they believe must be there.

Many folks are now using Doctor Earth as their dry combination fertilizer. In addition to containing an organic nitrogen source and a good combination of macro- and micro-nutrients, it also contains pro-biotics, organisms that promote soil development. Humic acid is another addition that is considered beneficial to roses.

When you fertilize, be sure your plants are well-hydrated before you begin and then water the product in thoroughly. Also wash any residue off the leaves so they won't burn. Cannot say this often enough.



**Insects and Disease.** Watch for signs of insects and disease. Aphids usually show up first. They don't cause much harm, though it is easy to understand why some people call them plant lice.

Wash them off the growing tips of your plants and use your fingers to knock them off as well. They won't be able to climb back up, but new ones will appear in a day or two. Just try to stay ahead of them. Thrips and their cousins, the chilli thrips, are a more significant problem, although they are much harder to see until too late. If you have citrus growing nearby, you most certainly have thrips. They chew their way into the buds right after the buds form and cause the brown petal edges, most visible on light colored roses, that so frustrate those of us who would like to show our roses. Chilli thrips do much more damage – it begins with crinkled leaves and brown tracks on the undersides of the leaves and progresses to damaged, blackened stems and buds. The most effective and least toxic control is regular spraying of newly growing tips and buds with a product containing Spinosad. Originally, we thought we would only see chilli thrips in hot weather, but now we are realizing that where there is new growth, there will be chilli thrips. Their reproductive rate (from egg to mature, reproductive-aged insect) is slower in cool weather and then speeds up as the temperature grows warmer. Thus we can spray every two weeks in cool weather but every ten and then seven days in spring and summer. Until better and possibly natural control measures become available, we are stuck with this problem of frequent spraying.

Powdery mildew is the most common disease at this time of year and if you had powdery mildew in past years, you will likely see it again. There are preventative and curative approaches, so make sure you know which you need and which you are using. Some plants are commonly referred to as mildew magnets because they show mildew first and get it the worst. Treat this disease as soon as you see it because the mold spores will quickly spread it to other plants. More and more roses are being bred for **disease resistance**. This does not mean they won't get it; it means they have more resistance than others. Watch for this characteristic when you are selecting new plants for your garden.

**Water, Water, Water.** As the weather grows warmer and as your plants grow and open more foliage, adjust your watering system accordingly. Check your soils regularly for moisture levels.

**Mulch.** If you have not mulched your garden this winter, do it now.



## CALENDAR

DATE	EVENT	LOCATION
Mar 10, 7pm	MEVRS General Meeting	ZOOM
April 2	Rose Society of Glendale Rose Show	Saguaro Ranch Park, Glendale, AZ
April 3, 1 – 5 pm	MEVRS Garden Tour	Scottsdale, Phoenix, Paradise Valley
April 7, 7pm	MEVRS Board Meeting	ZOOM
April 9	Rose Society of Tucson Rose Show	Tucson AZ
April 14, 7pm	MEVRS General Meeting, Election of Officers	To Be Announced
April 16	Phoenix Rose Society Rose Show	Valley Garden Center, Phoenix
April 22-24	PSWD 67 <sup>th</sup> Annual Convention and Rose Show	Courtyard by Marriott, Monrovia, CA
May 5, 7pm	MEVRS Board Meeting	ZOOM
May 12, 7pm	MEVRS General Meeting, Installation of Officers	To Be Announced

### Consulting Rosarians, Members of the Mesa-East Valley Rose Society

Name	City of Residence	Email
*Helen Baird	Phoenix --	
Dean Baker	Scottsdale	<a href="mailto:dnbakeraz@gmail.com">dnbakeraz@gmail.com</a>
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Kyle Burnis	Gold Canyon	<a href="mailto:kburnis@mac.com">kburnis@mac.com</a>
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Sherman Weekes	Maricopa	<a href="mailto:shermanweekes@hotmail.com">shermanweekes@hotmail.com</a>
*Master CR		



## TRIAL MEMBERSHIP

The American Rose Society is now offering a four-month trial membership for only \$10 to anyone who is interested in becoming members of our organization. Most ARS members are home gardeners who enjoy growing roses and want to expand their knowledge of rose culture.

### *Four-Month Trial Members receive:*

- Free advice from Consulting Rosarians. The ARS Consulting Rosarians program connects members with expert rosarians that provide free assistance with your rose questions.
- Free or reduced garden admissions, a \$25 value after just three uses. With the [ARS Reciprocal Garden Admission program](#), members enjoy free or reduced admission to and discounts at hundreds of gardens, conservatories and arboreta nationwide.
- Four issues of the online newsletter *Roses & You*, edited by Rita Perwich and full of helpful tips and tools of the rose growing trade.
- Two issues of American Rose magazine, \$20 value. The only magazine devoted exclusively to roses and rose culture, these bi-monthly, 84-page issues feature informative articles and beautiful color photography for beginners and experienced rose growers alike.
- Discounts of up to 30% at merchant partners. The [ARS Member Benefit Partner](#) program offers discounts at various merchants with new partners being added continuously.
- A four-month trial membership is valued at \$86 for only \$10!

Join Now!

You may [complete our online form](#) or call us at 1-800-637-6534.

