



Rose Lore

Mesa-East Valley Rose Society
Affiliated with the American Rose Society

Dona L. Martin, Editor

www.roses4az-mevrs.org

February 2008

**Thursday
February 14th, 7:00 p.m.**

**Monthly Meeting
Paul Elsner Library
Community Room, MCC**

Mike Jepsen on Soil: How To Improve It, Amendments And More!

Mike is a professional agricultural consultant, advising professional growers on their soils and how to enhance them. These same concepts and products are available for us, too!

Friends and family welcome.
Refreshments will be served.

Bring your rose questions
and concerns. See you there!

Fertilizers: When and How

by Jill Barnard

Reprinted from ARS.org

Roses are heavy feeders, but supplied with a varied nutritional diet, they will provide an abundance of large, beautiful blooms. After the first spring bloom, you will be reminded that the reward is well worth the effort you expend.

NEW ROSES VS. ESTABLISHED BUSHES For newly planted bare root plants, care must be taken not to burn the tiny new roots. Apply organic amendments to the soil at planting time, then wait until after the plant has produced its first blooms to apply chemical fertilizers. By this time you can be sure the roots are large enough to withstand chemical additions without burning. Water well first, apply the fertilizer and water well again. You may now begin a regular feeding program, but take a little extra caution - use weaker strength fertilizers on a more frequent basis for a safe, adequate food supply.

WHEN TO START FERTILIZING ESTABLISHED BUSHES Immediately after pruning, incorporate organic amendments into the soil. As the soil warms with the weather, the organics will start to break down and supply a slow release nutritional diet to your roses, as well as feeding the soil micro-organisms. A basic recipe would include, per bush:

- 1 cup bone meal or superphosphate (0-20-0)
- 1 cup cottonseed meal
- 1/2 cup blood meal
- 1/2 cup fish meal
- 1/2 cup epsom salts (magnesium sulphate)

Water thoroughly first, then spread the ingredients evenly around the bush, under the drip-line (outer perimeter) of the bush. Scratch lightly into the top 1-2" of soil and water well again. In warm climates with long growing seasons (January-February pruning and blooms through November-December), a second application is beneficial in early September for fall bloom cycles.

About two to three weeks after spring pruning and adding organic amendments, new growth will appear. Chemical fertilizers, whether liquid or dry, can be applied at this time, and will provide an instant food source for this heavy feeding period. How often to apply is a subjective decision, based on the amount of time and devotion you have, but once a month should be the minimum. First, let's determine your style:

(Continued on page 7)

What's inside this issue...

Fertilizers - Jill Bernard, ARS	1, 7
President's Message - Dona Martin	2
5th Annual Rose Auction & Rose List	3
PSWD Annual Conference and Rose Show - Schedule and Registration	4-5
A Mound of Mulch - Bob Martin	6
Rose of the Month—Damask 'Leda'	8
Rose Care for February -Dona Martin	9
Local and District Events	10
Consulting Rosarians/Membership	11

MEMBERSHIP DISCOUNTS

The following nurseries will give MEVRS members a 10% discount (unless otherwise indicated) on any rose-related purchase when you show your membership card. In some stores you must pay by cash or check only to receive the discount.

Be sure to get your annual Membership Card from the Membership Chairman.

A & P Nurseries

All three East Valley locations
(15% off all products, except
Advertised Specials.)
2601 E. Baseline Rd.
480-892-7939

Baker's Nursery

3414 N. 40th St., Phx

Berridge Nursery

4647 E. Camelback Rd., Phx
Potted roses always in stock!

Gardener's World

3401 E. Baseline Rd., Phx

Harper's Nursery

Three locations:
Mesa, Scottsdale and Phx
480-964-4909 (Mesa)

Summer Winds Nursery

3160 S. Country Club Dr., Mesa
480-892-1469

Treeland Nursery

2900 S. Country Club Dr., Mesa
480-497-2525

**When you patronize
these businesses, please
remember to thank the
manager for supporting
the MEVRS!**

President's Message by Dona Martin

Spring Pruning in the MCC Garden has progressed very well this year, thanks to all the wonderful volunteers. **Bill Henslin** will be sharpening tools again in the Rose Garden on **February 16th**. Please note there will be a charge for each pruner sharpened and all money goes back to the garden fund. Please come volunteer at least one Saturday during this time and bring a friend, relative or neighbor along to join in the fun! Even an hour is a much appreciated contribution, so don't be shy about coming. See you there.

Next **Saturday, February 16th**, is our **5th Annual Rose Auction!** We will also have a raffle and silent auction. Be sure to go over our auction list, as we have a great selection of roses. For those of you who have not attended a rose auction before, you will be surprised to find out what great deals you can get. **Bob Martin** will again serve as auctioneer and will provide an educational as well as entertaining afternoon with his encyclopedic knowledge of roses and the rose world.

Roses have come from a number of sources. Some have come direct from hybridizers, including Weeks, J & P and Star Roses. We have a special selection on fortuniana rootstock, from our friends Jim Mills of K & M and Jack Walter of Kimbrew-Walter Roses. We also have several miniatures and a miniflora from Vern Rickard of Almost Heaven Roses, including the very hard to find Marriotta and its sport, Alisha.

Additional roses have been donated by Mike Jepsen and Barb Mikol and we appreciate their generosity! A special group has come from Armstrong Nursery in California, which I personally drove over last week and picked up, as they do not ship. These are roses that are not available at other nurseries. These roses were actually purchased with a "contractor's" discount. A portion of them will go into the MCC garden, as these were paid for by an anonymous donor. The balance will have a minimum starting bid. They include Paul Ecke Jr, The Imposter and City of San Francisco.

To prepare for the auction, go over the list at right. Any rose you are not familiar with can be looked up on **HelpMeFind.com/Roses**, where you will get descriptions and photos on most of them. As soon as I complete the descriptive catalog that will be handed out at the door of the auction, it will be posted on our website. We will also be providing refreshments at the auction. Anyone is welcome, not just society members, so please remember, the more the merrier!

In conjunction with the **Pacific Southwest District Conference and Rose Show, April 18th**, we will have our **Annual Rose Garden Tour and Dinner on Sunday the 19th**. Conference attendees will be here from Southern California, Las Vegas, New Mexico and El Paso and many have expressed a desire to join our tour! While the Conference is being sponsored as a cooperative effort of the All Az Rose Societies group, the tour will be our responsibility. It will include eight gardens and end with a BBQ at the our home in Gilbert. Please set that weekend aside for two days full of rosy fun and friends!

3	Knockout	1	Preference	1	Tammy Darlene-Min-MJ
1	Winnipeg Parks	2	Marco Polo	1	Dazzler - Mini - MJ
2	Falling in Love	2	Johann Strauss	1	Tea Clipper
4	Olympiad	2	Gypsy Carnival	1	Spirit of Freedom
1	Crystalline	2	Sonia Sunblaze—mini	1	Josh
2	Coffee Bean	2	Amalia	1	Marriotta
1	Let Freedom Ring	2	Desert Peace	1	Alisha
1	Watercolors	1	Julio Iglesias	1	Fairhope
1	Rhapsody in Blue	1	Belle Story	1	Bee's Knees
3	Pillow Fight	1	Electron - BMikol	1	Robin Alonso
2	Easy Going	2	Ole`	1	King Kong
2	Valentine's Day (min cl)	1	Hot Cocoa – Bmikol	1	Black Magic
2	Gizmo	3	The Imposter	1	Vavoom

Ashdown Roses is sending twelve varieties, always including unusual old garden roses and many that are only carried at their nursery.

Mesa-East Valley Rose Society

Invites you to the

5th Annual Rose Auction

Saturday, February 16th

Mesa Community College

Rare and Unusual Roses will be sold at auction in support of the Rose Garden at Mesa Community College

Over 100 roses, modern and antique, large and small!
Educational and entertaining auctioneering provided by nationally recognized rosarian, speaker and hybridizer, **Bob Martin**.

Ready to plant for great Spring blooms

Silent Auction ~ Refreshments ~ Raffle

Doors open at Noon

Auction 1:00 p.m. to approximately 3:30 p.m.

FREE ADMITTANCE!

Join us the in the Kirk Student Center Navajo Room

More information available on the website!

Treat Your Valentine to a fun afternoon!

2	In the Mood	4	Paul Ecke Jr -5 gal	1	City of San Francisco
3	Home Run	1	Neptune - HT – Mike J	1	Sexy Rexy
2	Ruby Ruby	1	Home & Family -HT- MJ	1	Buxom Beauty
5	Charisma	1	In the Mood – HT - MJ	1	Marlon's Day
2	Wing Ding	1	Pinnacle - FL - MJ	1	Dorothy Rose (min cl)
1	Lasting Love	1	Midnight Blue – Sh - MJ		
1	Nearly Wild	1	Folksinger - Sh - MJ		And more roses are coming!
1	Tiddlywinks	1	Heather Sproul-Min- MJ		

Some in this list are on fortuniana rootstock, from Jim Mills and from Kimbrew-Walter Roses, Jack Walter.



Pacific Southwest District Conference Saturday, April 19th, 2008

In collaboration with The Arizona Rose Societies
Mesa Community College
1833 W Southern Avenue, Mesa, AZ
SE Corner of Southern and Dobson

Conference Weekend Agenda

Saturday, April 19th:

- Phoenix Rose Society and Pacific Southwest District Rose Show
at the Mesa Community College in the Student Union building
Entries received: 6:00 a.m. to 9:30 a.m.
- Judging
9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
- Luncheon and Meetings on 3rd floor of the Library
 - 12:30-1:30 Lunch on the 3rd floor of the Library
 - 1:30-3:30 PSWD Business Meeting on the 3rd floor of the Library
 - 3:30-4:00 Judges Horticulture meeting on the 3rd floor of Library
 - 4:00-4:30 Judges Arrangement meeting on the 3rd floor of Library
 - 5:00-5:30 Raffle at the Student Union
 - 5:30-6:30 Awards at the Student Union

Join Conference Attendees and MEVRS for our Annual Rose Garden Tour and BBQ!

Sunday, April 20th

10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

8 Private Rose Gardens and Full Dinner \$20 pp

Watch for more information!

Pacific Southwest District Conference

Saturday, April 19, 2008

In collaboration with The Arizona Rose Societies

Mesa Community College

1833 W Southern Avenue, Mesa, AZ

SE Corner of Southern and Dobson

Registration Form

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone# _____

E-Mail _____

Any donations made to offset the cost of the trophies and show expenses would be greatly appreciated.

Registration cost \$10.00 per person \$ _____

Lunch \$25.00 per person \$ _____

Donation to Trophy/General Fund \$ _____

Total Cost \$ _____

Make Check Payable to: PSWD Rose Convention

Mail to: Bill Sheperd

13159 N 82nd Ave., Peoria, AZ 85381

Registrations for Lunch must be received by Friday, April 11, 2008

Questions email Helen Baird at hbbaird@gmail.com

or Gerry Mahoney at xrose@cox.net

A Mound of Mulch

By Robert B. Martin, Jr.

During her development as a top exhibitor, Lynn Snetsinger commented to me that her visits to the gardens of the top exhibitors revealed but one significant constant: every one uses a heavy layer of mulch around their roses. This is true. Our feeding and spraying programs differ, as do other horticultural practices. But mulch is pretty much a constant and the reason is simple – mulch is important in growing good roses in southwest gardens.

A mulch is a covering of organic material spread mounded on, or spread on the ground around, roses to prevent excessive evaporation and to enrich the soil. Its primary purpose is to reduce evaporation and to hold water just below its surface where it can become available to the roots. Roses tend to feed from feeder roots that are normally quite shallow. Mulch will keep the root zone cool and by conserving water and nutrients will stimulate the production of feeder roots. Mulch also inhibits the growth of weeds and makes them easier to control. A good mulch is also decorative and adds a pleasing look to the garden.

The word "mulch" is derived from the adjective "melsh" meaning "soft". The ideal mulch will be soft and absorbent. These features will permit it to retain water and to prevent water run off and erosion. A soil with no blanket of mulch becomes hard and compacted and may even be impervious to water. This is particularly true of the clay soils so prevalent in our area.

An ideal mulch is also organic and contains valuable nutrients that are not available to the rose all at once. Mulch also activates the development of earthworms, which are of particular benefit in growing roses.

Many organic products may be used for mulch. Ideally the material should allow good air circulation. It should be porous to allow water and fertilizer to pass through, pleasing to look at (and smell), and permanent enough not to blow or float away.

Commonly used mulching materials in the our area include redwood bark shavings, composted tree clippings, pine needles, wood chips and manure. Redwood mulch is useful because it tends to acidify alkaline soils and is also relatively inexpensive and attractive. Pine needles also acidify the soil, last the longest and are inexpensive. If using wood products, the shavings are most useful and not the large chips which take forever to decompose. Wood products draw nitrogen from the soil in order to initiate their decomposition. It is therefore desirable to add some extra nitrogen if you chose these products.

It has been said that manure should be well aged and rotted before use as mulch, since otherwise it can burn the feeder roots and bud union. I have, however, seen large quantities of horse manure used with great

success in the growing of roses, often with little aging at all. So I am somewhat skeptical that much aging and rotting of horse manure is necessary. Other manures, however, do appear to require aging. In addition, cow manure contains a high percentage of salts that can be damaging to roses.

Finely shredded mulches should be mixed with heavier material to prevent their blowing or floating away. Also, finely shredded material can form a crust that impedes water penetration. Peat moss is an excellent mulch, but should be mixed with other material as it can crust when dry and form a nearly impenetrable mat.

Some southwest gardeners use a rock mulch which is thought to be decorative. A rock mulch, however, absorbs heat and radiates it up against the rose, an effect which is exactly opposite the cooling effect sought from a good mulch. It also does not decompose to add nutrients and texture to the soil. The use of a rock mulch in a rose garden is therefore not recommended. If you must plant in the midst of rocks, make a wide bowl extending beyond the drip line of the bush and fill it with mulch.

Mulches are typically sold by the cubic foot. A cubic foot is, of course, a cube measuring 12 inches on all sides. Assuming that your rose bushes are planted approximately 3 feet apart it can be assumed that the area around a bush to be mulched is about 8 square feet. Therefore 2 cubic feet of mulch applied 1" deep will be sufficient to mulch three roses bushes. A 2" deep layer will require twice as much. I usually apply the mulch at between 2-inch and 3-inches deep.

If you grow a lot of roses, as we do, buying mulch by the bag is both inconvenient and expensive. So I mulch using a commercial compost which I obtain in large quantity from either Ken Singh, who can be contacted through LeRoy, or from GroGreen in south Phoenix. You can pick mulch up directly, or have it delivered at a reasonable delivery cost. I usually order about six yards (162 cubic feet) which makes a small mountain in my driveway. Bales of pine needles (aka pine straw) are available from A & P Nursery and are convenient to move around. Large amounts of the bales may be ordered directly through Dona Martin, from White Mountain Pine Straw.

A good time to apply mulch is in February after the roses have been pruned, since it is easy to first clean up the beds and access to the base of the roses is much easier. You can then just simply dump it with a shovel directly around the rose, as there is no need to worry about keeping the mulch free from the bud union. Once they are all bedded in with a thick layer of mulch, the effect is very neat. By spring the mulch will have begun its decomposition and the beneficial effects will become apparent in the mounds of spring blooms.

Mulch can be added to at any time of the year, of course, so if you have not placed a thick enough...or any...layer around your bushes by now, you should do it before the worst of the heat arrives. Your roses will thank you.

(Continued from page 1)

CASUAL ROSE GROWER You like to look at roses from your window, but don't know the varietal names and only cut a few for the house. Your best bet would be a granular food with an N-P-K of about 10-10-10, applied every four weeks according to directions. Fish emulsion applied as a liquid fertilizer when buds are about pea-size (about three weeks before each bloom cycle) will enhance bloom color. Add chelated iron for rich green foliage. In hot climates, reduce the amount of fertilizer applied by half during June, July and August, but stay on the same 4-week frequency. Don't overlook the semi-annual dose of amendments!

DEDICATED GARDENER Realizing roses require a steady source of food, and having the time to supply it, you are willing to adopt a bi-weekly fertilizer program for the big blooms. Start with an application of granular food as first growth appears in Spring. Then begin a program of liquid fertilizers, alternating the following on a two-week basis:

- Peters, Grow More or Verdi-sol: (all 20-20-20)
- Fish Emulsion (5-1-1)
- Green-Up, Deep Feed or Pentrex: (soil penetrant, fertilizers and iron, 16-4-2)
- Epsom Salts (magnesium sulfate)

Apply according to package directions, usually 1 Tbsp per gallon, 2 gallons per bush. Add Epsom Salts at 1/4 C per bush, either dissolved in the liquid feeding or sprinkled straight from the package onto the soil. A periodic dose of iron chelate added to the fertilizer may be required for deep green foliage.

MAIN LINE ROSE JUNKIE (OR EXHIBITOR) Your "main line" is your hose, and you have had it surgically attached to your hand, since you fertilize weekly. Your main goal is a trophy in a local, district or national rose show. Use the above rotation of fertilizers on a weekly basis, but reduce the concentration to about half of that called for on the label. Iron chelate added to a solution monthly, and zinc chelate three weeks before a show will ensure rich foliage and bloom color.

HOW TO APPLY This again depends upon the number of rose plants you have and the method and type of fertilizer you choose. Granular fertilizers need only to be evenly scattered on the damp soil, 8" away from the bud union, scratched lightly into the soil, and watered in well (one-two gallons per bush). For liquid or water soluble fertilizers, two devices can play time-saving roles. Hose-end sprayers that will hold enough liquid or soluble fertilizer to feed your number of bushes with one or two fillings are great. The sprayer should have an adjustable dial that indicates how many ounces, teaspoons or tablespoons per gallon of water you are delivering. Fertilizers used must

be water soluble, meaning they dissolve thoroughly and quickly in water. Miracle-Gro is a good example.

If you have succumbed to greed and compulsion, and your rose garden has grown beyond 50-60 plants, I recommend a syphon device. At about \$10, this is a garden miracle-worker, available at most nurseries. A brass connector is placed between your water spigot and hose, to which a black tube is attached. You mix any water-soluble fertilizer with water in a 5-gallon bucket, at 16 times the concentration prescribed on the package, and leave the bucket at the water spigot. The tube placed in the bucket draws out one part concentrate and mixes it with 16 parts water, delivers it from the hose end, and fertilizes 30-35 bushes at the recommended dilution. And you never lift the bucket! Again, water soluble fertilizers must be used. Start with 4-5 inches of HOT water in a 5-gallon bucket, add the fertilizers and stir until dissolved. Then fill the bucket to the desired concentration.

HOW LONG TO CONTINUE Roses need a constant food source throughout their growing season. In areas of high heat, June, July and August are very stressful times for all plants. The recommended approach during those months is to reduce the quantity of applied fertilizer by half, but on the same frequency. Also during those months, when you water every day and flood once a week, it makes little sense to use liquid fertilizers, as they are flushed out of the soil as quickly as they are applied. A granular rose food of about a 6-12-6, used half strength, will supply a steady release of nutrients without high nitrogen concentration, to allow a semi-dormancy of the bushes during this period. Exhibitors withhold nitrogen and increase phosphorus about three weeks prior to shows, to focus growth away from leaves and stems, and into bloom quality. The same theory should be applied in fall. Apply your last nitrogen-based fertilizer about 30-45 days before the first frost date. You don't want to encourage lush new cane growth that will not have time to harden off prior to frost or cold.

CLIMBERS Being two to three times the size of bushes, climbers need 2 to 3 times the fertilizer. If using granular food, apply double strength and a little more often, spreading around the plant out to the drip line. If using liquid, saturate the same ground area well.

MINIATURES Minis are hardier to heat and cold than their big sisters, but are very sensitive to fertilizers. Always feed half strength, whatever you use. They love fish emulsion and other natural products. Minis in containers must be watered well before application of any fertilizer, but allowed to drain well too. Remove the tray from beneath the container, to allow them to drain completely and not be left standing in water.



*One of my all time favorites, 'Leda'
Damask rose, before 1827*

Story and Photo by Dona Martin

Damask roses are among the best of the old garden roses for our climate. There are several damasks that I have grown that have compact, medium sized bushes, usually about 3-4' wide and tall. Blooms are often fragrant and long lasting, the foliage dense and disease resistant. The leaves have a distinctive matte texture and almost grey-green color. Some varieties will bloom during much of the year, including in the heat of summer. The stems are strong enough to provide excellent cut flowers.

'Leda' is one of the very first I selected, being most attracted by its "button" center and red/dark pink edges on the petals. This random touch of color on the petals makes each bloom unique. 'Leda' is also call the

Painted Damask. I saw a picture of 'Leda' and knew I had to have it. I called about four different growers of old garden roses before I found some available, as the others were sold out!

As an exhibition rose, 'Leda' has won for me as specimens and in collections. The stems are strong enough to support both single blooms and sprays. Judges also enjoy seeing less common varieties, as do those who visit the shows. The petals have good substance and blooms do not shatter easily.

Other damasks similar in growth habit include General Allard and Autumn Damask, one of the oldest repeat blooming varieties, bred prior to 1600.

Rose Care for February 2008

Dona Martin,
ARS Consulting Rosarian

Spring Pruning – There's still time to prune, but try to finish by the middle of the month. Prune back your roses to about 1/2 - 2/3 of their current height. If plants are five feet tall, cut them back to 2½ - 3 feet. Cut out all spindly, crossing and dead wood, which will help open up the center of the plant to let the sun get down to the bud union. Dead canes should be removed *at the bud union* to open up room for new basal breaks. (Don't leave stubs!) Strip off all leaves and throw them away. Do not leave cuttings as part of the mulch, as the old leaves may contain disease spores and overwintering insects. You should end up with from three to eight upright canes for hybrid teas, more for floribundas, OGRs and shrubs. You will have more canes if you are growing roses on 'Fortuniana' rootstock. OGRs can be shaped to keep them in bounds at least the first two to three years, then thinned as necessary, removing old, unproductive canes from the ground.

For **climbers**, do NOT take any more than 1/3 off the length of main canes or they will pout and not bloom as well. It is more like a deadheading job, cutting back lateral stems, growth from the sides of the canes. Can sturdy laterals back, leaving 2-3 bud eyes. If too thick, cut flush to the cane, which will stimulate more growth where you have cut. Canes that are old and unproductive should be removed from the bud union.

Another thought on late pruning: go through your garden and at least prune perhaps half of each bush, preferably on the west side of the bush. This is better than not getting to them at all. Then go back through and prune the other side of the bush. This also serves to extend and stagger your bloom time. (This is the reverse of what we sometimes do in the fall.) It will be especially more noticeable if we have an unusually warm spring.

After Pruning – Spray the soil with Orthene, Diazinon or Merit to kill insects, especially thrips that are overwintering below the soil surface. Spray the canes with a good fungicide, such as Funginex, which is a mildew *preventative*. These are preventative measures that will save much work later on. If mildew does get established, the best new irradicant on the market by far is Compass, available on Rosemania.com. (Yes, it's pricey, but worth it! So find a buddy or two to share it with...)

Fertilizer – If you use good organic fertilizers like alfalfa pellets or meal and Berridge's Rose Food or Groganic, available from Mike Jepsen, they may be applied after pruning on established bushes. In our gardens, we apply 2 cups Groganic plus 1 cup alfalfa pellets per large rose bush, grown in the ground, half this amount for miniatures in the ground. For roses grown in pots, use ½ the above rate for standard roses or miniatures. When fertilizing, water thoroughly before application and again afterwards to prevent root burn. Epsom salts can be applied this month or early

March, at a rate of ½ cup per large bush. The magnesium will promote basal breaks. A second application comes in early April or about six weeks after the first.

Planting – Bare root roses may still be planted into February, however few are now available locally. Be sure to hydrate them well, fully immersing them in water for *at least* 24 hrs, even up to a week or two if out of the sun. Add some Superthrive to the water to strengthen them prior to planting. If we have unusual heat, it is more important than ever to keep the canes moist when trying to get them to bud out. Try covering them with wet mulch or peat moss, held around the canes by a bottomless brown grocery sack. Continue to keep the mulch wet until growth has started, then gradually wash it away! This really works and makes a big difference in how well the buds begin to grow!

This is also a good time to transplant. Roses transplant well when care is given to keeping the root ball intact and to not letting the roots dry out. Plants can be placed in a kitchen or grocery garbage bag to keep the moisture in for a short time or in a pot for longer holding. Continue to water! The tops should be pruned back in proportion to the root system. Potted roses may still be planted through March and very early April. Berridge Nursery in Phoenix will start selling its *new* stock of potted roses in early March, but has some of last years pots out now. Harpers, Bakers and A & P Nurseries have potted roses.

When planting any roses, be sure to check for good drainage by filling the hole and making sure the water soaks down within half a day. Mix up to 50% perlite into your planting mix to keep it loose and aerated. Spread a cup of DisperSul in the bottom of the hole to help neutralize the pH of the soil and to break down tight clay structure. When adding nutrients to the hole, remember NOT to mix Triple Super Phosphate in with the soil mix. Place it in clumps around the perimeter of the hole (on the sides of the mound for bare root), where the roots will reach it. Mixing it in the soil allows it to bond with the soil and so becomes much less available to the plant. Placing it in its own layer in this way is known as "banding".

As roses start to leaf out, irrigation should average twice a week, especially with the rapid rise of February temperatures. By the mid-70s, move to three times per week. If you drip irrigate, set the flow at three to four gallons of water per bush. If you flood irrigate, water deeply once a week throughout the month. Always have a wide basin around the base of the bush to keep the water from running off. If you are adding new or extended watering systems, we recommend using pressure compensating in-line drip hose. Talk with LeRoy Brady or me about this system, such as Netafim brand, which is used on Arizona highway landscaping.

Finally, don't forget to apply a 3-4" layer of forest mulch or pine needles around the roses and throughout your beds. It will help hold the moisture in, prevent weeds and keep beds cooler as it warms up.

All About
Growing Great Roses
In The Desert Southwest
2nd Edition

Second Edition of our excellent booklet on all aspects of rose care, selection, planting, maintenance and much more!

Still \$10 for the Award Winning 56 page book!
Available at most rose society events,
by mail or email.



Also available:

Growing Great Roses In The
Desert Southwest
DVD

Same great 1 hour 7 min program that has sold many hundreds of copies in VHS and DVD. Watch as professional agricultural consultant Mike Jepsen demonstrates pruning all types of roses, planting bare root and potted roses, watering, spraying and fertilizing. See the before and after garden, filmed from January through April.

Events Coming Up in the
Pacific Southwest District

February 9 – April 29, 2008

La Rose Impériale Exhibition

Exhibit of 110 rare illustrated herbals and rose books
Boone Gallery

The Huntington Museum & Gardens, San Marino, CA

Info: Clair Martin; cmartin@huntington.org

<http://www.huntington.org>

March 15, 2008 PSW District Arrangement Workshop

Hosted by Fair Friends of Roses

Ventura County Fairgrounds, Ventura, CA

Ikebana Arrangements taught by Marylou Coffman and Helen Baird. Participants are to bring arrangement tools, low and high/tall Ikebana vases. Cost is \$20 per participant and includes lunch.

Info: Barbara Schneider 805-648-7322

kleach@venturacountyfair.org

March 30, 2008 Great Rosarians of the World Lecture

Honoring William Radler, hybridizer of the Knockout series of roses

The Huntington, San Marino, CA

Info: Clair Martin; cmartin@huntington.org

<http://www.huntington.org>

April 19 - 20, 2008 Pacific Southwest District Rose Show and Conference

Hosted by the combined AZ Rose Societies

At Mesa Community College, Mesa, AZ

April 20th - Annual Rose Garden Tour and BBQ, hosting our Conference attendees, visiting 8 gardens and the Martins' for BBQ!

May 30 - June 1, 2008

2008 ARS National All-Mini Convention and Rose Show

Oklahoma City, OK

Info: Bert Wheeler, Chair, 405-282-2495

berkat@worldnet.att.net

Jeanette Davis, okjdavis@prodigy.net

June 26 – 30, 2008

ARS Spring National Convention and Rose Show

Four Points Sheraton, SE, Denver, CO

Info: Peg Williams, Chair, 303-691-2790

pegwilliams22@comcast.net

www.2008arsdenver.com

Put these dates on your calendars!

Mesa—East Valley Rose Society

You or your recipient will receive our monthly 8-12 page newsletter, local nursery discounts and more. **Membership is \$25, due June 1 of each year.** This is for a single or family unit living at the same address. New members joining after September pay \$5 per quarter, from quarter joining through the following May, payable in full at month of joining. Please bring your completed application and payment (please make check payable to **MEVRS**) to a meeting or mail to:

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

Date _____ New _____ ***Gift*** _____ Renewal _____ Amount Paid _____

Cash _____ Check# _____

Names: _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone (_____) _____ **E-mail address** _____

Yes! I would also like to join the national organization with which we are affiliated, the American Rose Society, for which I will receive the bi-monthly *American Rose* magazine, the December *American Rose Annual*, the "Handbook For Selecting Roses" and more! I am including in my check an additional amount of \$49.00 (Seniors \$46.00) for a one year membership.

As a new member, you will also receive a FREE miniature rose from Nor'East Miniatures!

Standing Committees

Auction Chairman.....	Cheryl Doan	480-838-4062
Audit.....	Judy Tolbert	
Historian.....	Evelyn Gannon	480-857-3090
Hospitality	Terri Sovereign.....	480-892-0972
Librarian	Alice Flick.....	480-839-4563
Membership.....	Donna Dibble.....	480-380-4592
New Member Orientation	Dave Dibble, Asst.	480-380-4592
Newsletter, Editor.....	Dona Martin.....	480-807-3475
Member Emails.....	Linda Ahlborn	480-695-5891
MCC Test Garden	LeRoy Brady	480-962-9603
.....	Marylou Coffman	480-926-3064
.....	Dave Presley.....	480-699-6562
Publicity Team.....	Member volunteers	
Rose Garden Volunteers..	Carol Poe.....	480-895-7793
Rose Show Chairman	Marylou Coffman.....	480-926-3064
Ways & Means.....	Mike Jepsen.....	602-312-1813
.....	Bruce Gannon.....	480-857-3090
Web site	Corinne Geertsen.....	480-649-9822

Consulting Rosarians

Larry Bell* (Ahwatukee Foothills).....	480-706-9667
Helen Baird*(NPhx, Scotsdale).....	602-953-0279
LeRoy Brady* (Mesa)	480-962-9603
Jeannie Cochell (NE Valley)jcochell@cox.net	602-493-0238
Marylou Coffman* (Gilbert).....	480-926-3064
Donna Dibble (East Mesa)	480-380-4592
Phyllis Henslin (Mesa, Apache Jct.)	480-807-3592
Millie Hisey* (Apache Jct-winter).....	480-288-0472
Michael & Cindy Jepsen (Tempe)	602-312-1813
Ken & Peggy Jones (West Phoenix)	623-931-5004
Arveda Larson* (Scottsdale)	602-953-3832
Terry* & Heidi* Leavitt (Phoenix)	602-971-0179
Dave* & Gerry* Mahoney (Glnl/Peoria)	623-581-3756
Bob* & Dona Martin (Mesa/Gilbert)	480-807-3475
Nelson Mitchell* (Peoria).....	623-412-1586
Steve Sheard (Tempe, Chandler)	480-831-2609
John F. Green (Tucson).....	520-795-2964
Margaret "Peggy" A. Hughes (Prescott).....	928-541-0265
Cathy Rose (Tucson).....	520-722-0010
Terry Schick (Flagstaff).....	928-853-0653
Liz Strong (Tucson)Lizzie441@comcast.net.....	520-797-7890
Terry Swartz* (Tucson).....	520-623-8285

*ARS Judge

Meetings are held at 7:00 pm on the 2nd Thursday of each month at
Mesa Community College:
Paul Elsner Library Community Room
 1833 W. Southern Ave., Mesa, AZ
New Member Orientation at 6:30 pm

Calendar of Events

February 16 thru March 1st: Spring Pruning at MCC - 9 a.m.

February 14th - Monthly Meeting - Mike Jepsen on Soil: How to Improve It, Amendments and More!

February 16th - Saturday, MEVRS 5th Annual Rose Auction, Silent Auction, Raffle and refreshments! Don't forget to save room in your budget for this excellent selection. Opens at Noon, auction starts at 1:00 p.m., Navajo Room, Kirk Student Center. More details inside and list of available roses!

March 13th - Monthly Meeting

April 12th - Scottsdale Rose Show

April 19th - PSWD Annual Conference and Rose Show

April 20th - Annual MEVRS Garden Tour and BBQ

Put these events on your calendars today!



*The Rose:
 Our National
 Floral Emblem*

All articles for the newsletter must be submitted to the Editor by the 20th of each month.

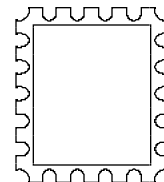
Mesa-East Valley Rose Society

Executive Officers

President	Dona Martin
1st Vice President	LeRoy Brady
2nd Vice-President	Donna Dibble
Recording Secretary	Linda Ahlborn
Corresponding Secretary	Pam Thuillez
Treasurer	Alta Russell
Past-President	Steve Sheard

Rose Lore

Dona L. Martin, Editor
 Mesa-East Valley Rose Society Inc.
 PO Box 40394
 Mesa, AZ 85274-0394



Board of Directors

Cheryl Doan
 Bruce Gannon
 Evelyn Gannon
 Phyllis Humphry
 Marylou Coffman

Check out our

ARS Award Winning website:

www.roses4az-mevrs.org

*Developers of
 The Rose Garden at Mesa Community College,
 the largest public rose garden in
 the Desert Southwest!*