



Rose Lore



Volume 2 Number 7
Bulletin for the Mesa-East Valley Rose Society

September 2019
Mary Van Vlack, Editor

Contents

- Page 1 – September Meeting
 - Page 2 – President’s Letter
 - Page 3 – In the Garden
 - Page 4 – Burlington Roses
 - Page 5 – Roses in Review
 - Page 6 – Fall Rose Care
 - Page 8 – Sept in the Garden
 - Page 9 – Why a Rose Show?
 - Page 11 - Reading the
Schedule-Marylou
 - Page 13 – Shooting Great
Photos
 - Page 16 – Steve’s Classes
 - Page 18 – Calendar
 - Page 18 – Bricks for ARS
 - Page 27 – Join ARS
- Deadline for
Roses in Review
9/26/19*

Officers & Board

- Pres – LeRoy Brady
- VP-Programs - Maggie
Holloway
- Treasurer - Bud Morrison
- Membership - Carole
Holkenbrink
- Recording Secretary - Yvonne
Morrison
- Corresponding
Secretary - Marylou Coffman
- Members at-large:

 - Helen Baird
 - Cheryl Doan
 - Linda Ahlborn
 - Lynn Twitchell (past
president)
 - James Racinowski

MESA EAST VALLY ROSE SOCIETY SEPTEMBER 2019 MEETING!

For September, please join us for a live presentation on making rose arrangements for the rose show. Marylou Coffman and Helen Baird will be teaming up to show us some of the different kinds of arrangements, and what judges will be looking for in the arrangements. One of the creations they make for us will become a prize in the raffle for the evening, so you could potentially take an arrangement home with you.



October's presentation will be geared toward preparing for the rose show, and how to pick roses for entry. With November's meeting taking place just two days before the show, we will be covering more details of entering roses and answering questions you may have about the show.

Check the October and November newsletters for additional detail each month.

Our meeting will be Thursday, September 12 at 7:00 pm in the MCC Library, room 300. Visitors are always welcome. In addition to the program, there will also be announcements about upcoming events, refreshments, and the opportunity to ask consulting rosarians questions about growing roses.

*Ikebana Arrangement by Jim Anderson, roses – Graham Thomas,
photo by Mary Van Vlack*

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

BY LEROY BRADY

It is easy to forget or overlook that Mesa East Valley Rose Society annual dues come up in June every year. Thanks to all who have paid and are current. As a reminder to some who have not renewed, there is no better time than the present to keep your newsletter coming and other continual benefits from your membership in our local Society and the many activities. Some of the membership benefits that come to mind are:

- The "Rose Lore" newsletter that provides so much valuable information for growing roses in our challenging climate, as well as society activities
- A regular, comfortable meeting place at Mesa Community College with an informative and interesting program each month
- Rose Show location for exhibiting roses displaying horticultural efforts and providing education and community interaction
- Support of the Rose Garden with the College
- A forum for exchange of knowledge and ideas among members

The list could go on, but at this time if you haven't, please renew your membership. Thank you to all those that have renewed and support the MEVRS. We all enjoyed the July program by Mike Jepsen as he provided great horticultural information to all of us for growing better roses for the fall bloom cycle. This information is not in books but is based on his professional agronomic and horticultural years of experience.

We are looking forward to September's program on rose arrangements: we can enjoy expanding our creative talent for our homes and, yes, even entering in the MEVRS Rose Show in November.



LeRoy Brady with Chris Greenwood, photo by Mary Van Vlack

Congratulations are in order to Mary Van Vlack, our Rose Lore editor, for her award recognition in the *American Rose* magazine September/October issue.



IN THE GARDEN

MARYLOU COFFMAN – LEROY BRADY

Somewhere it is almost fall, just not here in the Sonoran Desert. The Rose Garden at Mesa Community College is looking a lot like your home garden, heat stressed, bedraggled and tired and ready for fall to arrive. Have faith - cooler weather is coming! This is a great time to join in participating with other rose garden volunteers in setting the stage for a successful and beautiful fall blooming season. Fall is around the corner; it will be here before you know it.

This is your invitation to join the Rose Garden Volunteers, the "Deadheaders," on September 21, 2019. Bring a friend a family member or a neighbor to learn and enjoy fall light pruning. There will be coffee and donuts as well as friendly people to show how to trim rose bushes for an outstanding fall blooming cycle. Practice in the rose garden develops confidence for pruning roses in your home garden. The "Deadheaders" are already busy pruning some of the nine thousand roses in the garden. It takes a lot of hands to prune that many roses.

In December and January this past winter, over six hundred-thirty new rose bushes were planted throughout the garden. Some were replacement plants and many are new test roses which were



Marylou Coffman, photo by Mary Van Vlack

planted in one of the three test gardens. Since the roses are evaluated for two years, we have six test gardens to evaluate this fall. Most of the new roses have survived the hot summer and are recovering to show what they can do for the fall blooming season.

Why not do an evaluation of your own garden as well as the College garden? Here are some of the criteria we use to evaluate the test garden roses.



- **Vigor.** Did your roses grow in the spring and survive this summer, or did they struggle? As the weather cools is the plant recovering from the summer heat stress?
- **Disease Resistance.** Did the roses have mildew? Here in the desert we have very little mildew to worry about. If the rose had mildew, it most likely has poor resistance.
- **Flowering Effect.** Were your roses covered with blooms or just a few blooms here and there? Did the petals drop off? If petals were held on the plant, were they distracting?
- **Heat and Cold Tolerance.** Did your roses show heat distress and slow growth during the summer? Any damage to the bush such as die-back?
- **Fragrance.** Does this rose have a strong fragrance? Is the fragrance pleasing? Or is there very little?
- **General Impression.** Is this rose a WOW! I like it, I want to keep it! Or is it one that is ready for shovel pruning (dig up)?

The three test gardens have survived and bloomed throughout the summer. Blooms were very small and growth was minimal, but the test is to see how they recover from the sustained heat. By November we should know. So, take a walk through your garden and ***The Rose Garden at Mesa Community College.***

BURLINGTON ROSE ORDER

Again this year, we are ordering miniature rose plants from Burlington Roses in California. These roses will be available for sale at our rose show in November at a price of \$10.00 each.

For our members only we are offering the opportunity to purchase them in September for \$7.00. The list of available rose plants is attached separately from the September newsletter with an order form. You can send the list of roses you want to purchase to Marylou Coffman by September 12 or bring them to the meeting. She will send the order in after our meeting.

If any of these roses are unfamiliar, you can obtain more information about them by checking their *Roses in Review* rating in the current *ARS Handbook for Selecting Roses* and visiting the independent website [Help Me Find Roses](#). This site provides photos of most rose cultivars along with descriptions of the plants, foliage and blooms.

THE QUICK AND EASY GUIDE TO *ROSES IN REVIEW*

BY MARY VAN VLACK

Every summer we rosarians talk a lot about something called *Roses in Review*. Some of us, obviously, know all about it and participate regularly. But I suspect that many of us don't really get it and therefore, do not participate. My mission is to shed some light on this and make it sound like something you can do, should do, and really want to do. So here are a few answers to some questions you may have.



1. What is *Roses in Review*?

Roses in Review is a program sponsored by the American Rose Society to create the opportunity for rose growers to evaluate the performance of recently released roses just when they have been available long enough for folks to form opinions about their quality and performance.

2. What happens to the information?

The results across the United States are calculated and then released by the *Roses In Review* chair for our district, both for our own district and for the nation as a whole. The nationwide results are printed in the *2020 ARS Handbook for Selecting Roses*, along with other useful information which is released at the end of the year and sent to every ARS member. This booklet can also be purchased for \$10 on the ARS website.

3. Who does these evaluations? Who has the power to influence other people about which are the good ones?



Anyone in the U.S. who grows roses in outdoor gardens. Respondents do not have to be members of the ARS or a local rose society. However, Consulting Rosarians are expected to complete the survey as a part of their CR activities. And here at MEVRS we would like to see all of our members participate as well.

4. How does one do this survey?

Go online to the ARS website, <http://ars.com/>. Look for and then check the box on the right of the home page that says *Roses in Review*. Go through the list of roses that are up for review and

make a list of those you grow in your garden. Then follow the instructions to rate your roses. ARS has worked very hard to make the process easy and intuitive – there is even a video as well as written instructions. This is just a huge improvement over past years of trying to do the ratings online.

5. What if I don't grow any of these roses?

At the top of the evaluation form on the ARS web page there is an opportunity to check off that you do not grow any of the listed roses. Why bother? Well, this is information also useful to ARS and rose hybridizers and sellers. It also counts toward the number of members responding in the Pacific Southwest District service area.

6. Why should I participate?

We live in a unique climate – only the folks in the Palm Springs-Palm Desert area come anywhere near having the growing conditions for roses that we experience. It is just very important that the rose results of our area are included in the ratings these cultivars receive.

This process only takes a few minutes and is kind of fun, so do it now. The deadline for reports is 9/26/19.

Photos: previous page, Maroon 8, Rosie the Riveter, both by Mary Van Vlack

FALL CARE FOR ROSES

BY MIKE JEPSEN

When does fall start? The calendar says Sept. 23. For our local climate the average date for the temperatures to shift is Sept. 20. Nights start to cool off with less humidity, low temperatures are in the upper 60's to mid 70's and plants can start to rest and recoup at night.

Oct. 20 is about the time when average daytime temps stay below 100 degrees. By then, overall plant vigor should start to show substantial improvement.



In my garden Fall rose care starts July 15 - WHAT??! Actually, we need to split fall care into 2 segments- PRE FALL- JULY 15 TO SEPT. 20 and FALL- SEPT. 20 TO "winter".

Why is fall care important? Fall blooms usually show more vibrant color than spring. If we get our roses to come out of the summer doldrums quickly, and we don't get hit with an early freeze, we can have good bloom from Nov. 1 to Jan/ early Feb. This is a longer bloom season than in the Spring.

What goes into pre-fall care?

Around July 15 it's time for fertilization. I use Milorganite, 1/3cup for small rose plants, 1/2 cup for large roses. Check soil temperature at 3-4 inches in depth at noon (soil microbes do best at a soil temperature of 74 degrees F.) We really need to keep the soil healthy. Add to soil covering mulch, wood chips, or shredded cedar (my choice). Deadhead roses, removing spent bloom and peduncle only.

Attend to irrigation – for a drip system providing 4-6 gallons each irrigation, when the temperature is above 110 degrees water 4 times per week; when it is 90 -110 degrees run your system 3 times per week. Add extra hydration to plants by running an oscillating sprinkler or small head sprinkler or low volume water breaker every 7-14 days.

On Sept. 1 repeat fertilization. Again I use Milorganite, 1/3 cup small rose plants, 1/2 cup large plants.

Fall Care

Fertilization- I change gears with my fertilization and go inorganic. My preference is water soluble fertilizer every 10 days until it is time to stop feeding. A simple program would be to use an organic or granular inorganic fertilizer monthly until mid Nov.

Irrigation- High Temp >90 degrees – 3 times per week; 75-90 degrees – 2 times per week ; <75 degrees -1 time per week (4-6 gallons each time).

Fall grooming - I am changing my views on this. Instead of taking off 1/4 to 1/3 of the plant tops, I will take off no more than 3-6 inches of the plant tops. I will still cut out all dead wood.

If you hose off your roses after Oct. 20, do so only in the mornings.

When to fertilize for the last time in the fall? This will depend on the microclimate where you live. The old citrus belt tends to be warmer at night, later in the fall. Final fertilization can be anywhere from Thanksgiving to mid-Dec. You want your last fertilization to be at least 25 days before any potential freeze. This allows plants to harden up before a potential freeze.

DUES ARE OVERDUE!

Annual membership dues for MEVRS are overdue now. An annual individual or family membership is \$25. Payments in cash or check can be made at our next meeting or mail your check to MEVRS/Membership, P.O. Box 40394, Mesa, AZ 85274-0394.

On your check or an included piece of paper please update your mailing address and email address for our records.



SEPTEMBER IN THE ROSE GARDEN

BY MARY VAN VLACK, CR

As we face September, it is still hot, and enduring this seemingly endless summer requires such patience. The late summer monsoon storms never really came through. We have all had enough: the children are back in school, vacations are over, the days are growing shorter, Halloween decorations and costumes fill the stores. It's fall – isn't it? Not quite. And until both days and evenings show significant cooling, the roses will not welcome any radical actions from us. Do your best to back off until the daytime highs drop into the 90's. Still, there are some things you can do for your beleaguered plants.

Pay attention. Walk through your garden regularly. Go out early in the morning before breakfast, when temperatures are coolest. Watch for signs of water problems, for spider mites, and for beneficial insects.

Water, water, water. Continue with your summer water schedule until day and night temperatures drop significantly. As the days grow shorter, check the "start times" on your irrigation system controller so when they run you are awake and can keep an eye out for leaks and broken sprinkler heads. Watering in the heat of the day leads to substantial water loss through evaporation and the possibility of scalding the leaves. As often as you can, continue to use your garden hose and water wand to direct a strong spray of water to the undersides and then the tops of leaves, washing away dust and breaking up the colonies of spider mites and such.

Deadhead your roses? No – wait a bit longer. Do not remove any live leaves, including damaged ones. Your plants are probably losing enough leaves as it is because of the extreme weather. Cutting stimulates growth, which further stresses the plant, so don't do it. Of course, it is always good to cut away any dead canes, cutting back to live wood where a branch occurs or back to the graft union. Also, do remove any suckers, since they take more than they give to the plant. If you want to do more, clean dead leaves and petals and other debris out of your bed and pull all the weeds.

If you have nut grass, actually nut sedge, growing in your rose beds, I'm so sorry to hear it. It is our toughest weed to get rid of and can choke out our roses. There are some products on the market for sedge control – Sedge Hammer is one. I have not found this to be very effective. One rosarian told me to take concentrated Round Up and pour a small amount into the center of each tuft of nut sedge, but Round Up and roses are not compatible. I found that approach stunted the growth of the nearest roses and they never really recovered. Digging it out – the sedge - is the only way, but you have to keep doing it again and again and again and....

Fertilize - maybe. If you have not fertilized your roses in six weeks or more, a light application of organic slow-release fertilizer would be in order. Water your roses really well the day before you fertilize, and then water your product in thoroughly. Lay in a supply of Epsom salts and chelated iron to use when the weather cools. All that irrigation tends to leach all the nitrogen out of the soil in your beds and containers and it needs to be replaced.

Control pests and disease. I usually do not spray for pests or diseases in September, unless I have a major outbreak of spider mites that the water wand cannot control. If you use Merit as an in-ground application, you could do that now since it requires several weeks to become effective. The grasshoppers and katydids (built like a grasshopper but solid light green) are not your friends. They will chew holes in buds and make a mess of blooms and leaves. When you go out early in the morning, take your pruners; if you see one of these, they're slow when it's cool, so give them a quick snick with your pruners and solve that problem.

Planting. Do not plant or transplant roses now.

Finally, be patient. Just be patient.

If you have questions or comments, you can contact me at marywvv@gmail.com or 602-625-6983.

THE MESA-EAST VALLEY ROSE SOCIETY ROSE SHOW SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 16

Editor's Note: With our rose show coming up in November, we wanted to focus both the monthly meeting programs and some of our newsletter content on supporting and building enthusiasm for the show. We want every member of MEVRS to feel like this is their show. This month, we have my article on "Why Have a Rose Show?", Marylou Coffman's article on how to read and understand the show schedule for arrangement entries, and Part 1 of my article on rose photography. In October we have several great articles planned as well, including two on entering roses in the horticulture section, one on volunteering, and Part 2 on photography. We hope you find these informative and interesting.

ROSE SHOWS – WHY?

By Mary Van Vlack

*Note: This article originally appeared in the **Rosy Outlook**, newsletter for the Pacific Southwest District of the American Rose Society, and received a 2017 ARS Newsletter Competition **Award of Merit**.*

It seems like it has become popular in recent years to put down rose shows – too expensive, too much work, just an ego trip for a very few people, same old thing year after year. And I've heard a number of people say "I don't want to exhibit my roses, so why should I get involved in the show in any way at all?" With our MEVRS rose show coming in November, it seems like a good idea to revisit a couple of questions. First, why should local societies hold shows? Second, why should members participate?

I can think of several reasons for holding a rose show, even if it is a lot of work.

- This is our best (or one of our best) opportunity to reach out to the public and spread the good word about growing roses in our area. How many times have you heard people say "I didn't know you could grow those here..." or "Aren't they really hard to grow?" Shows can be publicized in various ways – it just takes some perseverance to penetrate to the public consciousness.
- This is a great opportunity to recruit new members, which every organization needs. Sometimes people don't sign up the day of the show, but at least now they know about you and may join later after attending a meeting or two. To enhance this result, during the public hours you could set up and staff a membership table with friendly members armed with applications and lists of the benefits of membership.
- Through our shows we can work toward the goal of educating the public about roses. This can especially be supported by setting up a consulting rosarian table with knowledgeable folks to



answer people's questions and by scheduling thirty- to sixty-minute seminars on growing roses. We can offer an extended public viewing time and encourage our members to walk around the show floor introducing themselves to people, answering questions and making suggestions to the visitors.

- It is fun, the camaraderie, getting to know our own members better, getting to know the members of other rose societies in the area, and making new friends. Putting on a show gives a society a tangible goal requiring teamwork and commitment to the group. Some societies find that only a few members are ever willing to accept leadership roles and offices, but participating in a show may help more people feel they can lead too.
- The show is a splendid sight, so many, many of these beautiful flowers in all possible colors and forms, many highly fragrant, some very familiar, some exotic. In the PSWD we think we have the most beautiful rose shows around. Every year I go home with a list of roses I'd like to add to my garden.
- If an annual show seems a bit tired and repetitive, there are lots of ways to make it fresh. If you haven't, add a photography section. Members will enjoy bringing their photos and the public seems fascinated by them – there is always a crowd around the photography entries. Bring some creativity to your show schedule, especially the horticulture section. Drop the classes that very few people ever enter. Add an identification class. Add some viewers' choice awards (best color, best form, best fragrance, etc.) Add some fresh, new classes (micro-mini bowls, OGR frames, best new rose introduced in the last 3 years, best single bloom polyantha, etc.)



- Include a shopping opportunity in your show. Many people love to shop and don't like going home empty-handed; we can sell roses in containers, especially minis, small garden tools and aids, fertilizer, books and videos, and photographs of roses, including note cards.

Putting on a great rose show is one sign of an active and vibrant rose society.

My second question is why should members participate in the show, especially if they don't want to exhibit? If those members want to help their society to be active, viable, and fun, there are lots of things they can contribute.

- They can help the rose societies further the aim of encouraging and inspiring more people to grow roses and helping them to do it better. They can make a huge contribution here, sitting at the consulting table and/or leading workshops on those areas that hold particular interest for them. They can walk around the show, introducing themselves to visitors and answering questions which may come up.
- If an individual's skills lie in the area of hospitality, the show offers many opportunities for them to contribute in essential ways. They can organize a luncheon for the judges or set up coffee, orange juice, and rolls for the early bird exhibitors. And they can sit at a membership table, inviting visitors to join the rose society and explaining why they enjoy being members, aside from the shows.
- Every rose society needs all available hands to assist with set up and take down. Although these chores are work, the team spirit and camaraderie help every member feel they are an

essential part of the society. Set-up offers opportunities for creativity to make the show more polished-looking and beautiful.

- The best way to counter the notion that exhibitors are elitist, trophy hogs, or nutcases is if every society member can be persuaded to bring at least one entry for the show. A how-to-exhibit workshop ahead of time and a help table for those who need it during prep time will build confidence.
- Members might surprise themselves and win some awards! There are many trophies and blue ribbons to be won, many opportunities for people with different interests.
- Knowing that they will be showing and sharing their roses to others will encourage members to take better care of their roses, feeding them regularly, attending to any pest or disease problems, and generally gardening “as well as you know how.”
- Some members may have some interesting and unusual roses growing in their gardens that others will enjoy seeing. If we all limited ourselves to what Bob Martin calls “bankable roses,” the varieties that win awards over and over again, the tables would be filled with only a few varieties. Boring! Let’s show folks more of the 40,000+ varieties available.

When I told Hal Reynolds I was thinking of writing this article, he provided his take of the subject: “When my roses are in full bloom, I always feel a pang of guilt when I am the only person appreciating the fragrance, beauty, and wonder of a garden filled to the brim with roses. Taking my roses to a show lets me share a part of what I am enjoying with others. I also never refuse to open my garden for viewing by groups whenever asked. An additional thought is that doing a rose show keeps a society vital by working together on a project as well as gaining new members from show attendees.”



Finally, all of us need to remember to bring more fun and less stress to our shows!

READING THE ROSE SHOW SCHEDULE (WHAT IT MEANS)

BY MARYLOU COFFMAN

For every Rose Show there is a schedule. It is the Bible for the show. The schedule contains the information not only for Arrangements, but for Horticulture as well.

When working on the Schedule, writers generally give consideration to the interests and abilities of their exhibitors. Themes for the show usually are general and broad enough so that class titles can relate to the theme and stimulate arrangers’ imaginations.



The schedule will contain;

Information about the location time of show, and time for entries.

The show committee and their telephone numbers.

The rules for entering arrangements, horticulture and photos.

The theme of the show and the class titles. If the show is large enough, there should be two classes for Traditional, Modern and Ikebana arrangements. Exhibitors have the opportunity to enter as many types of designs as possible. Traditional and Modern arrangement classes are generally offered in all schedules. For each class the schedule should indicate:

The rules for entering each class.

The permitted use of backgrounds and underlays.

The type of design for each category and their specific requirements.

How the arrangement will be staged. In standard arrangements there are usually width limitations. In miniature arrangements, all need to be less than 10 inches in height, width and depth, but can also be limited to 3, 5 and 7 inches in height, width or depth. In standard arrangements you can use any type of rose. In miniature arrangements you can use only miniatures roses. Each class will tell you what the requirements are.

The schedule will tell you if you need to reserve a space for your arrangement.

All roses must be outdoor garden grown. All roses must be listed in the ARS Approved Exhibition list.

One entry per exhibitor is allowed in each class, but an exhibitor may enter as many classes as desired.

Accessories are allowed unless otherwise stated in the schedule.

Flowers other than roses and dried and/or treated plant material are allowed unless prohibited by the schedule.

All entries must be the work of one exhibitor.

A card of intent may be included with an arrangement.

An arrangement incorrectly placed in a class will be judged in the class in which it was entered.

The schedule will tell you what awards are available for each section and class. In some classes you must write the type of arrangement on the entry tag, to eligible for an award.

To be eligible for American Rose Society Medal certificates, the roses must be outdoor garden grown by the designer and you must also indicate that the roses are arranger grown. A simple "AG" on the entry tag will do.



No one but the exhibitor may touch or move an arrangement. However, in special circumstances, if all efforts to locate the arranger fail, the arrangement chair may carefully move an arrangement.

Infringement of the following rules will result in severe penalty:

- 1. Painted or dyed fresh plant materials and live creatures are not allowed.**
- 2. The use of plant materials on the state or local conservation list is not permitted.**
- 3. The American flag or the flag of any county may not be used in an arrangement or as a decoration in any way.**

THERE ARE TWO CAUSES FOR DISQUALIFICATION OF AN ARRANGEMENT:

- 1. ROSES NOT OUTDOOR GARDEN GROWN**
- 2. USE OF ARTIFICIAL PLANT MATERIALS.**

SHOOTING AND SHOWING GREAT PHOTOS OF ROSES

PART 1 SHOOTING GREAT PHOTOS

BY MARY VAN VLACK

It should seem obvious that before you can enter photographs in a rose photography show, you, umm, need photographs of roses. I think of this part as building a portfolio of photos of roses – ones that I have taken of living roses grown in the great outdoors.

I want to photograph roses when I see them – beautiful blooms in the height of their glory – and not have to rush around looking for beauty candidates and scrambling together my equipment in the days right before a show.

Having the right equipment available comes first. This includes a camera and few other items as well. One of the wise dads of the rose photography world says a couple of wise things about cameras (OK, I can't remember who said this, just what they said.) "The best camera is the one you have with you" and "The best camera is the one you know how to use." There are so many cameras in the world, but I think they can be gathered into four categories: old-style film cameras, smart phone cameras (including tablet cameras), pocket/point-and-shoot/compact digital cameras, and DSLR or digital single lens reflex cameras.



If you are still using an old-style film camera, I want to urge you to give it up! As we get older, we do like to hang onto the "classics" but not in this instance. I have three good reasons: the cost and difficulty of getting film, the cost and difficulty of developing that film, and the difficulty of control over the image including correcting problems and improving its appearance.

The cameras on smart phones are constantly being improved, taking sharper pictures at a wider range of distances with better color. Certainly, this is the camera most of us have with us most of the time. It is tempting for owners of more complex cameras to dismiss images from smart phones, but there have been numerous instances of such photos winning awards. If this is the camera you have with you and know how to operate, don't hesitate to use it. But do start learning how to improve the images you take. Many tablets and e-books have cameras on them as well, but these are large and unwieldy. You are unlikely to get quality images close up of small stuff like roses.

When digital cameras came on the market, all the major camera companies and other electronics makers rushed to market with pocket-sized or compact digital cameras. In our household we purchased two of these, Nikon CoolPix. Many people refer to these as point-and-shoot cameras, terminology left over from the days of film cameras, like Brownie cameras and such. This, however, is misleading because the 21st century compacts provide so much more than pointing and shooting including limited means of image control and ability to subject images to photo editing. These cameras introduced the feature of a huge image file of photos of all types. If the photographer shoots flowers, the in-camera photo editor compares that image to images of flowers in its file and make the adjustments that appear to be needed. Photos of people, landscapes, nighttime and so on receive the same treatment. As smart phone cameras improve, they are essentially making these compact cameras obsolete and the

large camera companies are phasing them out. Many people still own them and are using them and passing them on to other family members. If this is the camera you have and know how to use, don't hesitate to use it and enter your photos in competitions.

As you gain more experience with smart phone and compact cameras, the time will come for you to consider moving up to the DSLR's. This stands for digital single lens reflex cameras, the camera of choice for experienced photographers. The capabilities of these cameras include superior optical quality, the ability to use interchangeable lenses, the ability to control shutter speed and aperture, focus, image stabilization and much more. They range widely from professional models with extraordinary capabilities and price to less expensive models for the rest of us.



Which ever camera you choose to use, you will want to improve your knowledge regarding how to use it. In addition to reading and re-reading the manual which comes with most cameras, there are also many classes available, both on-line and with a live instructor. The Desert Botanical Gardens offers a wide selection of classes which would be worthwhile for photographers of roses.

In addition to having a camera, there are numerous other photography tools you might consider taking with you into the garden. First comes lenses. For a long time I used the wide angle lens that came with my camera, but now I'm using a fixed focal close-up lens which gives me better light gathering optics and depth of field.



The wide-angle lens is a standard item for most DSLR's and the close-up lens is widely available but expensive. A variety of specialty lenses are now available for smart phone cameras too; for rose photography you might consider obtaining them.

Other tools you might want include a tripod for stability for close-up lenses - this is essential since most do not have image stabilization. A remote shutter release is helpful so you don't shake the camera when you press the shutter. A grooming kit is essential for dusting off rose petals, tweezing out petaloids, and clipping off deadheads and other distractions around the rose.

This grooming is permitted for roses entered in the horticulture section of rose shows and can be done in the garden as well. You may also want to take a light-colored umbrella or a frame supporting white

silky fabric to diffuse bright sunlight. All these tools, carefully used, help us to create a cleaner, better quality photograph and save on post-production time.

Now that you are equipped to take pictures, well, you are not quite ready for the next step of finding flowers to photograph. If the schedule for the show you want to enter is available, read through it, the rules, the judging standards, and the classes available to enter. If not, track down a schedule from last year, a good beginning. Exhibition rules and classes do vary from one show to another. Although photography has been a feature of rose shows for several years, there are still inconsistencies in judging as well. I'll write more about how that affects your entries in Part 2.

Now you can head outside to find roses suitable for your photos. Suitable roses must be grown outdoors and for the horticulture entries they should be photographed outdoors on their mother plants. Arrangements, of course, can be photographed indoors or on your patio and the rules for artistic classes vary. Most exhibition rules allow photographers to enter roses they did not grow, which is ironic given that the judges generally apply horticulture rules to many of the classes. Be sure to mark your entry tag when you show pictures of roses that you have grown. So, go forth into the world, photographing beautiful roses wherever you see them, in your own garden, in public gardens including the Mesa Public Rose Garden, in your friends' gardens, and along your travels. Be sure to record the name of the cultivar or variety of rose, essential information for all rose show entries. Many of us photograph the tag or label for a rose adjacent to the photos of that rose rather than trying to keep written notes.

Take lots and lots of pictures, not just one of each flower. Try different angles, different lighting conditions, different times of day, refocusing each time if you can. Bracket your photos, taking others in addition to the one you think is best. With a digital camera it does not cost any more to take 100 photos than one, so be generous to yourself, have lots of choices.

There are numerous other issues essential to taking great photos. One, of course, it to be certain that your entire rose is in focus, that is, sharply defined around all edges. Serious photographers talk about depth of field and by this they mean the portion of the distance from the camera, through the flower, into infinity that is in focus. This is determined by available light and settings for shutter speed and camera

aperture opening. For a single (4-8 petals) rose, which is pretty flat, not much depth of field is needed, for a many petalled rose, much more is required, and a spray or an arrangement may require a great deal of depth. For roses in the garden, it is not necessary for the foliage to be in focus and some judges prefer that it isn't.



When working outdoors it is essential to pay attention to the light. Bright sunlight will cause shadows on your rose, an effect which many judges will penalize, although a few find acceptable. To avoid this, you can take photos on a cloudy day (very rare in Phoenix) or get out early before the sun reaches the

roses. Another strategy is to use that white umbrella or piece of silky fabric on a frame to diffuse the sunlight and imitate the light of early morning.

Most judges in this area do not care for pictures with bees on roses or water on the petals unless the class calls for these effects. Go ahead and take these photos – they are charming and you may sometime find the appropriate way to use them. However, do not deliberately spray your roses with water just to get that effect. Also, take most of your photos early in the day before the bees are active.

Be sure to prep your roses before photographing them. Use a clean cosmetic brush to remove dust and pollen. Remove nearby spent blooms and look to see if buds or partially open blooms will distract attention from your main subject. Rub leaves gently to remove dust and bugs and bring up the shine, even if you think they will be out of focus.

Compose your photos – don't just snap them. Include all of the bloom or spray within the frame of the camera with generous space left over – you can always crop away any excess, but you can't add what you failed to include originally. Learn the rules of composition and consider which ones apply to different kinds of photos (see the separate attachment: *There Are No Rules*). Move around while taking photos, closer and farther away, to one side and another, higher and lower, so you have different views of your subject and can later choose the best one.

Now save your photos on your computer for the next step. Next month I'll write about selecting and preparing photos for a show.

Please send comments and question to Mary Van Vlack, marywvv@gmail.com.

STEVE'S GARDENING CLASSES

BY STEVE SHEARD

stevezroses@yahoo.com (480) 831-2609

Editor's Note: As you no doubt already know, Steve Sheard is a very knowledgeable consulting rosarian and horticulturist. Every year he teaches an assortment of classes around the valley and he has just sent me his schedule for 2019 – 2020. Please contact Steve if you are interested in one or more of them.



Roses in Arizona Climate.

Fall and winter are the right time to start thinking about how you can grow and care for roses in your desert garden. Join me, a Master Rosarian of the Mesa-East Valley Rose Society as I present an overview on rose gardening in the Arizona climate, selection, planting, maintenance, and much more.

October 15th Tues 6:00pm – Mesa Public Library, 64 E. First Street, Mesa, Arizona 85201

November 2nd Sat 10:00am –

Chandler Downtown Public Library, 22 S Delaware St, Chandler, 85225

December 3rd Tues 6:00pm – Mesa Red Mountain Public Library, 635 N Power Rd, Mesa, 85205

January 13th Mon 6:00pm – Tempe Public Library, 3500 S Rural Rd, Tempe, 85282

January 15th Wed 6:00pm – Chandler Sunset Library, 4930 W Ray Rd, Chandler 85226

January 29th Wed 6:00pm – Desert Botanical Garden, 1201 N Galvin Pkwy, Phoenix 85008.

<https://www.dbg.org/>

Revitalize: The Rose Garden.

Help prune the Public Rose Garden at MCC where 10,000 bushes demonstrate how roses can grow in the desert. Hands on training on how to prune a rose bush. Bring your gloves & clippers.

September 21st Sat 8:00am - Mesa Community College, 1833 W Southern Ave Mesa 85202

January 18th Sat 8:00am – Mesa Community College, 1833 W Southern Ave Mesa 85202

Growing Fruit Trees in the Valley.

Growing fruit trees in my Tempe backyard environment is quite different from rural growing. I will teach you how to grow, fertilize, when to plant, and how to help them survive their first Arizona summer. I will share my 38 years' experience of collecting, growing, and successfully harvesting 35+ rare fruit trees.

October 16th Wed 6:00pm – Chandler Sunset Library, 4930 W Ray Rd, Chandler 85226

October 29th Tues 6:00pm – Mesa Public Library, 64 E. First Street, Mesa, 85201

November 5th Tues 6:00pm – Mesa Red Mountain Public Library, 635 N Power Rd, Mesa, 85205

November 7th Thurs 6:00pm – Scottsdale Mustang Public Library, 10101 N 90th St Scottsdale, 85258

December 14th Sat 10:00am – Chandler Downtown Public Library, 22 S Delaware St, Chandler, 85225

January 7th Tues 6:00pm – Desert Botanical Garden, 1201 N Galvin Pkwy, Phoenix 85008.

<https://www.dbg.org/>

January 27th Mon 6:00pm – Tempe Public Library, 3500 S Rural Rd, Tempe, 85282

Grafting Fruit Trees

A hands-on class with discussion and demonstrations on how to have more fruit varieties through the use of various grafting and budding methods, including T-budding, and bark and cleft grafting. Also covered: collecting scions, protecting the graft and necessary tools. Rootstock, scion wood, a grafting knife and tape will be provided. Limit 15 persons.

February 26th Wed 6:00pm – Desert Botanical Garden, 1201 N Galvin Pkwy, Phoenix 85008.

<https://www.dbg.org/>

CALENDAR

DATE	EVENT	LOCATION	CONTACTS
Thurs, Sept 12 7 pm	MEVRS September monthly meeting	MCC Library, Room 300	LeRoy Brady
Sat, Sept 21, 8am	Revitalize the rose garden	MCC	Steve Sheard
Oct 4-6	Mini-Miniflora Conference and Show	Nashville, TN	Richard Anthony mailto:RJA4CPR@aol.com
Thurs, Oct 10, 7pm	MEVRS October monthly meeting	MCC Library, Room 300	LeRoy Brady
Nov 5	Deadline for ARS American Rose Digital Photography Competition	ARS	https://www.rose.org/contest
Thurs Nov 14, 7pm	MEVRS November monthly meeting	MCC Library, Room 300	LeRoy Brady
Sat, Nov 16	MEVRS Rose Show	MCC Library, Room 145	
Sat, Dec 7	Arizona Rose Societies Banquet		
Sat, Jan 18, 2020, 8am	Revitalize the rose garden	MCC	Steve Sheard
April 24-26, 2020	PSWD Convention and Rose Show	Arcadia, CA	Pacific Rose Society
June 2020	ARS 2020 National Convention and Rose Show	Hotel Elegante, Colorado Springs, CO	Diana Kilmer 1-951-834-2330 mailto:Originalsbydiana42@verizon.net

BUD ON BRICKS

BUD MORRISON

The complete renovation of the ARS National Rose Gardens at Shreveport, LA, has been reported in detail in each issue of American Rose. Much progress is being made, and one of the fund-raising programs is for individuals and others to purchase brick pavers which are engraved with the donors' names and used to pave garden areas.

The Mesa East Valley Rose Society board has approved an 8" x 8" engraved paver, which has been ordered. If you ever have the opportunity to visit the gardens, ask to be directed to where your paver is located, and take a look at it, while enjoying the gardens.

Also consider requesting a paver of your own; the 4" x 8" size is a modest \$100.00 donation. Full details are in each issue of American Rose, and detailed on the website, www.rose.org.

JOIN THE ARS!

MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS

- **5 issues of *American Rose* magazine, \$40 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.
- **1 issue of *American Rose Annual*, \$15 value.** The November/December issue of *American Rose* features 128 pages of the latest in rose research, growing techniques and tips and more, from writers across the country and abroad.
- ***The Handbook for Selecting Roses*.** Every year, rosarians from across the country participate in rating the newest roses. From those thousands of reports, we tabulate the ratings and publish the results in this guide.
- **Free or reduced garden admissions, a \$25 value after just 3 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.
- **Free online access to five quarterly bulletins, a \$45 value.** Previously available by subscription only, the *Mini/Miniflora Bulletin*, *Old Garden Rose & Shrub Journal*, *Singularly Beautiful Roses*, *Rose Arranger's Bulletin*, and *Rose Exhibitors' Forum* are all now available online at no cost to all ARS members.
- **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.
- **Free advice from Consulting Rosarians.** The ARS Consulting Rosarians program connects members with expert rosarians that provide free assistance with your rose questions.



MEMBER BENEFIT PARTNERS

- Angel Gardens**
10% discount
- Chamblee's Rose Nursery**
5% discount
- David Austin Roses**
10% discount
- GreenCure**
Free shipping
(on one container)
- Heirloom Roses**
10% discount
- High Country Roses**
10% discount
- KeyPlex**
\$2 off + \$2 donation to ARS
- Mitchell Nelson**
20% discount
- Pine Straw Direct**
5% discount
- Rogue Valley Roses**
10% discount
- Tijeras Rain Barrels**
30% discount
- Vintage Gardens**
10% discount
- Walnut Hill Farm**
5% discount
- Witherspoon Rose Culture**
FREE rosebush for **NEW** members (full membership only) & 10% discount

YES! PLEASE BEGIN MY MEMBERSHIP IMMEDIATELY!

Name: _____

*Joint Member's Name _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ *E-mail: _____

Local Society Affiliation: _____

Check MasterCard Visa Discover American Express

Card#: _____ Exp. Date: ____ / ____ V-Code: _____

- | Annual | 2-year | 3-year |
|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$49 Individual | <input type="checkbox"/> \$95 Individual | <input type="checkbox"/> \$140 Individual |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$62 Joint* | <input type="checkbox"/> \$117 Joint* | <input type="checkbox"/> \$170 Joint* |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$46 Senior (65+) | <input type="checkbox"/> \$89 Senior (65+) | <input type="checkbox"/> \$132 Senior (65+) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$59 Senior Joint* | <input type="checkbox"/> \$111 Senior Joint* | <input type="checkbox"/> \$162 Senior Joint* |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$54 Canadian | <input type="checkbox"/> \$105 Canadian | <input type="checkbox"/> \$155 Canadian |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$67 Canadian Joint* | <input type="checkbox"/> \$127 Can. Joint* | <input type="checkbox"/> \$185 Canadian Joint* |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$10 Youth | <input type="checkbox"/> \$20 Youth | <input type="checkbox"/> \$30 Youth |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$59 Foreign | <input type="checkbox"/> \$115 Foreign | <input type="checkbox"/> \$170 Foreign |

*Joint membership is an individual and one associate residing in the same household. Associates enjoy all the member benefits of ARS but do not receive *American Rose*.
Mail to: P O Box 30000, Shreveport, LA. 71130-0030

JOIN TODAY!

**A \$155+ VALUE
FOR ONLY \$49!**

Call 1-800-637-6534
or visit www.ars.org