



Rose Lore



Volume 4 Number 6

Bulletin for the Mesa-East Valley Rose Society

June 2021

Mary Van Vlcek, Editor

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JUNE MEETING

Our next meeting will be on Thursday, June 10 at 7 pm. Our program, presented by our newly installed president, Helen Baird, will be on insects in our garden. It will, without a doubt, be very interesting.

Without access to the Mesa Community College community meeting facilities, we continue holding our meetings using Zoom; if you have not used it before, you might want to download the program ahead of time at zoom.us.

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.



PRESIDENT'S LETTER

BY HELEN BAIRD

This is a very exciting time. We are beginning to return to normal. This is demonstrated by local societies beginning to work on fall rose shows. Both Glendale and Mesa East Valley plan to have a fall rose show. I hope to see everyone at both events.

I want to talk about the upcoming program but before I do that first I want to say thank you to everyone. Even with the extra rules and COVID restrictions on working in the garden, members still found ways to give of their time and labor to winter prune and prepare the rose garden for spring. All of your work and time is greatly appreciated. Thank you, Thank you, Thank you. You are the best.

On the other topic I am pleased to be the presenter on insects. The subject is common insects in our gardens. Since I do not spray, this is a subject that is near and dear to me. The reason I do not spray is that not only do I grow roses in my garden, but I also grow herbs and vegetables. Therefore, it is important for me to encourage good bugs in my yard, but in order to have good bugs you must have food for them, which means that first you must have the bad bugs



before you get to develop a colony of good bugs. I believe that part of the process is to learn to identify which bugs will live in our environment so that you can work to keep a balance of both types of bugs.

Quail Watch - I have a family of quail in my yard. It is a mother, father and two young. This is noteworthy for me because for many years the quail were gone in my neighborhood while construction north of me was happening. This is now only the second year for quail in my neighborhood, so the quail are now back.

HOW DID WE GET HERE?

BY MEMBERS OF OUR BOARD

At our May board meeting, the suggestion arose that our 2021-22 officers, to help us know them better, share with us how they came to growing roses and participating in the Mesa-East Valley Rose Society. Several answered the call and their responses are shared below.

Bud Morrison:

I went into retirement at 74 and knew I had to be active in something. I trolled the AARP website "Create the Good " and found Mike Cryer's post about the MCC rose garden. In going to the garden and meeting the kind people there, it was only natural for me to work, learn, and become involved with MEVRS.



Yvonne Morrison:

After I retired from my second profession, I was introduced to the MCC rose garden. When we discovered the volunteer opportunity at MCC, my thought was, "How hard is it to learn how to cut a rose off a bush?"

That started the journey of going to the garden, finding out about the rose club and learning how to grow roses. Our home had nary a rose bush and now has about 100, I have sincerely enjoyed learning about roses and also meeting and getting to know the great people who help with the garden and who are in the club. It has been a great journey.

Sherman Weekes:

Last year I served as The Recording Secretary for the Mesa East Valley Rose Society (MEVRS). This year I am happy to serve as the First Vice President of programs and I am looking forward to helping the society host some highly informative programs. The First Vice President in the absence of the President performs the duties of the President and shall be the program chairman for regular scheduled meetings.

My relationship with roses and MEVRS began in February 2013, when Linda Ahlborn invited my wife Euphemia and me to a meeting of the society. At that meeting we received our first rose, 'Don Juan', which we planted in our garden the following morning. We joined MEVRS the next month because we wanted to learn about growing roses in Arizona. Within a few months we were hooked and started adding roses to our garden. We now grow over one hundred roses in our garden in Maricopa.

I have found that the best way to learn about roses is to get involved in the activities of MEVRS. This includes attending meetings regularly and volunteering whenever possible. You can volunteer for tasks such as helping in the setup and tear down for the rose shows, helping with the annual rose auction or helping with the winter pruning of the MCC rose garden. There are a lot more opportunities where you can volunteer.

I became an ARS consulting rosarian in 2019. I have a lot to learn about roses and I look forward to serving you as First Vice President so that together we can host programs that help to increase our knowledge of

roses and its promotion in our community. Please contact me directly if you have any questions or suggestions about MEVRS programs.

Linda Ahlborn:

I became involved with the Mesa East Valley Rose Society by first thinking not about roses but about myself. I saw the MCC garden on a Saturday morning and thought what a wonderful way to spend your Saturday morning, taking care of roses. I found out more--the *Deadheaders*, then the society.

I have volunteered on Saturday mornings as a *Deadheader* and as an officer on the MEVRS board. I think having conversations with people who loved roses and were willing to spend a lot of time with them helped me to develop a similar interest in them. Now I can't imagine not having roses in my life. They are a focal point of everything I do.

Cathy and Pat Thiel:

Several years ago, we were at the Maricopa Home and Garden Show where we sat in on a talk about growing roses in Arizona. Before we moved to Arizona (the second time) in 2002, we had a beautiful garden in Wisconsin which included roses, but we never even dreamed that we could grow roses in a desert. After listening to the talk at the Home and Garden Show we spoke to several people who were manning a table filled with literature about growing roses. They told us about MCC's beautiful Rose Garden. So, the next day we decided to ramble over to MCC to see what all the fuss was about, and there we met LeRoy Brady. Leroy gave us a personalized tour of the gardens and talked about the Mesa East Valley Rose Society. We couldn't believe how friendly and knowledgeable LeRoy was (only later did we find out what a treasure he was to both MEVRS and MCC'S Rose Garden ~ we were so blessed that day!). After that we were hooked! We started attending meetings and purchased our first batch of 17 roses. Today we have over 150 roses in our yard. We live in neighborhood filled with active seniors, many of whom stop by to admire and smell our roses. They're always amazed that roses can be grown in our hot dry climate. We're always happy to share what we've learned about growing roses in the desert.



ANNUAL DUES FOR MEVRS ARE DUE JUNE 1, 2021.

Please send in your dues of \$25.00 – you can use the form on page 10 and mail in a check or pay on our website at [Membership](#). If you aren't sure whether you owe them now, contact Bud Morrison at Budmorrison22@gmail.com for clarification.

‘SOMETHING’S COMING, SOMETHING GOOD, IF I CAN WAIT!’

That is the first line of a song from *West Side Story* and just the thing for our present moment. As signs have emerged that the COVID pandemic is loosening its grasp on us, we are finding the courage to come out into the world, to begin making plans, and to look forward (not backwards) with happy anticipation. Now we want to find out what is coming at MEVRS and in the rose and rose society world! Here is what we know.

- We will continue with virtual meetings – until MCC gives us permission to meet on campus. We hope this will happen by fall, 2021.
- The PSWD is holding its 2021 Convention and Rose Show in real life next weekend in San Diego. Your newsletter editor will give you a quick report in our July issue.
- The National ARS Convention, which was cancelled last year after several changes of the date, will be in Milwaukee September 10 through 14, 2021 at the Pfister Hotel. Our own Maggie Holloway says she will be attending, so we can hope for a complete report.
- We are also looking forward to the return of local rose shows. The Rose Society of Glendale has approval from the City of Glendale to hold a rose show November 6 at Saguaro Ranch Park in the Packing Shed. Usually their show is in April – guess they just couldn’t wait. If you have never attended a Glendale rose show, this is the year. The packing shed is a wonderful old building in Saguaro Ranch which re-creates the Arizona farms and ranches of over a hundred years ago. Our own rose society is planning a rose show two weeks later on Nov 20, pending approval from MCC. We’ll have more information on that in the months to come, along with information on volunteer opportunities and on how to enter your beautiful roses.
- Our energetic team’s series of garden videos on YouTube has been amazing, but we have also yearned for real, live garden tours to make a come-back and there are discussions underway for that very thing in April 2022. See Bud’s brief below.

PLANNING A GARDEN TOUR

As we plan a spring garden tour for 2022, it would be helpful to have suggestions from members as to what area of the valley they would like to visit and any specific gardens they would like to see..

The best tours include about four gardens close to one another to reduce driving time. The most recent tour was of Jepsons, Rehehrs, Sheards, and the gardens at Val Vista Lakes. Last year we had planned to visit in the Paradise Valley area, mainly for the gardens of Larry Kahn and Helen Baird, but that tour was canceled because of the pandemic.

Please share any ideas or preferences you may have with Bud Morrison.

MEET THE HEAT!

BY MARY VAN VLACK

As we enter the very dry and very hot months of summer, it seems a good time to review some of the things we know about how we can help our roses and ourselves come through.

Summer in the Valley of the Sun has always been hot, but there is no question it is getting worse. If you drive around some of the oldest parts of our communities, you may see old houses with sleeping porches. Some have been screened or glassed in or otherwise remodeled over the years, but originally when summer arrived people would pull their mattresses out there to sleep on hot summer nights. I cannot imagine doing that today. Once, though the days were hot, the nighttime temperature cooled down considerably, but now streets, sidewalks, parking lots and rooftops absorb heat all day and release it all night. We - and our roses - do not get a break. Further, the number of very hot days each year has grown larger and larger with summer starting sooner and lasting longer into what used to be fall. We have to adjust our ways of growing roses.



- Water is essential to our roses, but not hot water. Mike Jepsen has taught us that while spraying plants with water increases the humidity around them, blows off dust and gathering insects and mites, and cools the air, hot water does not work very well. Mike finds that at his home the water is hottest in the morning whereas at my house it grows hotter as the day wears on. You need to check this out and spray your roses when the water is coolest.
- Water, but not wasted water is important. Over the years as water has become more scarce and expensive, drip irrigation systems have become the standard solution. Some rosarians like an overhead sprinkler system to cool the plants, but whatever approach you choose, make sure you do not waste water with rivers into the street or fountains in all the wrong places. We used to have rabbits who would bite into our irrigation tubes to make a drinking fountain, so frequent inspections of your system is really important. Further, spraying warm water on hot plants can scald the leaves, another cause for trouble.
- Afternoon shade is more important than morning shade. Roses want some sunshine every day, but late afternoon sun can do considerable damage. Trees and other plants, buildings and walls can provide some shade, but often at the wrong time of day.

- Overall shade can help. Filtered shade from trees is very welcome in the summer although it may reduce blooms in fall and spring. Many of us have investigated various schemes to build shade systems and some of us have built them. This can be an expensive and imperfect solution, but some of us have found it necessary. If you are interested in learning more about this, you may want to sit in on the Phoenix Rose Society meeting June 15. Please contact me by email if you want the link.



- Consider problems of opportunity. Spider mites can explode when beneficial insects have succumbed to our pesticides and when the air is dry and our plants lack good air circulation. Chilli thrips love hot weather and require constant vigilance and often need pesticides at a time when we really don't want to be outdoors spraying. Those lovely shade trees can break in the monsoon winds, leaving us with broken canes and beds full of debris.

And don't forget the gardener. If we must be outdoors attending to all these things, we must attend to our own needs.

- Hydrate. Coffee, iced tea, soft drinks, beer and other alcoholic beverages do not provide good hydration. Water interspersed with occasional Gatorade or similar would be the way to go.
- Work early in the day when it is relatively cool and out of direct sun as much as possible.
- Protect your eyes with UV-protecting lenses, your head with a good hat and your skin with sun protection.
- When you do have to spray pesticides, you may choose not to use the full Tyvek outfit, goggles and respirator, but do protect yourself with long pants, closed shoes and socks (no sandals), long-sleeved shirt, eyewear, mask and gloves, and head covering.

Be cool!



JUNE IN THE ROSE GARDEN

By Mary Van Vlack,
CR

Summer is here – the temperatures of 117° promised in the coming week tell us that the typical June in the desert has arrived. It is no time to cower inside – we need to get out early every morning to do what we can to help our roses survive. Remember, we have the luxury of retreating indoors in the heat of the day to our computers, meetings, and other tasks. Our roses, on the other hand, will remain outdoors toughing it out.



Pay attention. Most years, the afternoons of June and early July post the highest temperatures found in our valley throughout the summer and, for that matter, some of the lowest relative humidity levels. June is not necessarily the most miserable month for people, but it certainly can be for our gardens. Walk through your garden regularly. Go out early in the morning, even before breakfast, when temperatures are at their coolest. Watch for signs of water problems, too little or too much. Watch for spider mites and for beneficial insects. If you see any pretty (though small) flowers opening up, cut and bring them into the house where they will last a bit longer.

Water, water, water. Continue to be generous with the water. Roses growing in containers may need water daily, so if you plan to be away from

home for long trips you should consider installing drip tubing, emitters and a timer clock. They are at least as reliable as people we may hire or impose upon to do the job, and if something goes amiss, there is nobody to blame. Roses in the ground need only be watered three to four times a week, but water deeply when you do water, allowing penetration to at least 10 - 12 inches. It may be necessary to water twice on the days you do water to get that penetration without run-off. From now until the summer monsoon, we will receive very little, if any, rain so the roses are counting on you to provide what they need.

Be sure that your water temperature is not too warm at the time(s) of day when you do water – hot water is not welcome. Also, bear in mind that is possible to over-water, turning your garden into a smelly, anorexic mess which will kill as effectively as no water. Please remember that we are in a time of drought – do not water your paved areas, sidewalks, or street where nothing should grow. A well-planned and installed drip irrigation system can help you put your water in the right places in sufficient quantity while reducing waste through run-off and excess evaporation. Best not to run your system at night when you will not see leaks and other problems. How often have we driven past nighttime waterworks fountaining up and running off because no one sees the problem?

Apply mulch. If you have not already, apply a fresh layer of mulch now. Quit putting it off and just do it. Do not use rocks or those rubber crumbs. Apply a 3-4 inch layer of organic mulch – forest bark, weed-free horse manure, alfalfa pellets, and compost are all excellent choices. Mulch will discourage weeds, shade the roots of the roses, and conserve moisture in your soil.



This is an excellent gardening practice for the heat characteristic of our climate. Remove any weeds growing amongst your roses – they compete for water and nutrients while adding nothing beneficial to your garden.



Deadhead your roses. Summer deadheading is a bit different from the deadheading we do the rest of the year. Your goals are 1) to preserve as much foliage as possible, 2) to keep your garden clean and tidy, and 3) to discourage your roses from blooming heavily in the heat, which is a waste of plant energy only to produce poor-quality flowers. In our heat the summer flowers are very small, sometimes off-color, and very short-lived, but still cost the plant considerable energy to produce. Some folks feel it's too hot to work outdoors much anyway, so they just quit deadheading. This does accomplish the first and third goals but not the second. In addition, some varieties, though not all, will then work hard to produce hips with seeds inside them, and this also requires a great deal of plant energy. Another strategy is to cut off the spent flowers only, leaving all the foliage. Either way, the roses will still produce some flowers, but not as many as if you had continued to cut back to the outward-facing five-part leaf.

Fertilize. Some California rosarians do not fertilize at all in the summer, arguing that the nitrogen is not available above 90° and fertilizing only pushes non-productive growth. Many of us believe heavy summer watering will leach away nutrients, so some fertilization is necessary, just not very much at a time. For my roses in the ground I will feed an inorganic “complete” solid fertilizer that releases slowly, such as Arizona Best Rose Food or Organo Rose Food, but I will

apply it at half strength about every 6 weeks. Roses in containers lose their nutrients even more rapidly as we water them daily, so I will give them a tablespoon of the granules every 3-4 weeks. Other people prefer an organic-based fertilizer, and some like Osmocote slow-release product. Be sure that you are applying the micro-nutrients such as iron and sulfur, as well as nitrogen, potassium, and potash. Water your roses well the day before you fertilize, and then water your product in thoroughly. This is extremely important – the salts in fertilizer can easily burn your plants.

Control pests and disease. The primary pest on roses in the summer months is spider mites, and these tiny guys can be a serious summer problem for roses, killing the leaves they colonize and defoliating the plant. When the leaf surfaces appear dull or pale, the undersides of the leaves feel sandy or rough, and fine webbing appears on the leaves, the likely cause is spider mites. Spider mites are more closely related to spiders and scorpions than insects and will not respond to insecticides such as Orthene or Merit. The first treatment and prevention is to spray the underside of each plant with a very strong stream of water every morning or at least every two days. If the infestation becomes severe, it must be treated with a miticide such as Avid or Floramite according to the product directions. Usually, more than one application is needed to control the problem. Mites can become resistant to Avid, another reason why pesticides should not be used casually, but only as a last resort.



As we now realize, chilli thrips are a growing threat to our roses. Inform yourself regarding what to look for in terms of damage to leaves,

stems, and buds. Treat right way – cut off the areas that show damage and dispose cuttings in the dumpster – do not compost this. Apply a pesticide containing either spinosad such as in ConserveSC or Tolfenpyrad as in Hatchi Hatchi once a week in hot weather until the thrips are under control; then follow with worm castings applied in a layer under the plants or as a tea, dumped in a bucket of water and then aerated before spraying or pouring onto the plants. Chilli thrips thrive in hot weather and with no winter freezes, they do proliferate.

Cutter bees are also very active in our gardens in the summer, but no attempt should be made to control them. These small gray bees (no, not those big black ones) scissor out little circles of leaf, preferring the matte surface, thinner leaves to the glossy, heavy ones; they also have a fondness for bougainvillea bracts. They lay an egg in the center of each circle and then roll it up like a tiny green (or pink) cigar. These are tucked into tiny, protected crevices around our homes. I'm not sure whether the new hatchling eats the rolled leaf, but the adult bees do not. Bees, including wild ones and these cutter bees, are

beneficial in our gardens, and while we don't like being stung by honey bees or having our rose bushes cut up, it would be irresponsible to spray for them.

Planting. Do not plant or transplant roses now.

The author may be reached with questions or comments at marywv@gmail.com



MESA EAST VALLEY ROSE SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP
 ANNUAL FAMILY OR INDIVIDUAL MEMBERSHIP IS \$25.00.
 ANNUAL DUES ARE PAYABLE BY JUNE 1. NO DISCOUNTS FOR LATE PAYMENTS.
 PAYMENTS BY CHECK PAYABLE TO MEVRS, MAIL TO THIS ADDRESS:
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Consulting Rosarians, Members of the Mesa-East Valley Rose Society

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*Master CR

Photos in this issue: Page 1 'Midnight Blue', Page 2 Helen Baird with Silver Medal Certificate, 'Lady Emma Hamilton', Page 3 Yvonne & Bud Morrison, Page 4 Cathy and Pat Thiel – provided photo, Page 6 Misting system – by Lou Pavlovich, Page 7 garden shade, Page 8 'Cajun Sunrise' and 'Dr John Dickman', Page 9 'Bold Ruler' and 'My Sunshine', Page 10 'My Sunshine'. Except where noted, other photos are by Mary Van Vlack.

CALENDAR

DATE	EVENT	LOCATION
June 10, 2021	MEVRS General Meeting	Zoom
June 12-13, 2021	PSWD Annual Convention and Rose Show El Cajon, CA	Zoom
July 2021	ARS 2020 National and District elections	On-line
July 2, 2021	MEVRS Board Meeting	Zoom
July 8, 2021	MEVRS General Meeting	Zoom
Sept 10-14, 2021	ARS National Convention and Rose Show, 'Cream City Roses'	Milwaukee, WI
Nov 11, 2021	National Unknown Soldier Remembrance Event	Rose Garden at Mesa Community College

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.



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- \$132 Senior (65+)
- \$162 Senior Joint*
- \$155 Canadian
- \$185 Canadian Joint*
- \$30 Youth
- \$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*.

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