

Rose Ramblings



Patron Member of the American Rose Society

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President's Message

By Deborah Magnuson, magnusonsd@sbcglobal.net

September for me has always meant BACK to SCHOOL. Excitement abounds as students freshen up their school supplies, clothing, and sport new haircuts. Summer cannot last forever, so store advertisements are often accompanied by autumn leaves changing to hues of red and gold. Teachers traditionally ready their classrooms for the upcoming year. I am very pleased that the San Diego Rose Society will also essentially be going 'back to school' with our wonderful panel of rose experts at our September meeting. They will be going over some of our previously learned material so as to refresh our memories just as our teachers did in our past. In addition the panel members will present new and advanced information which many of us will find useful. So I hope each of you will join us.

In the world of roses there is certainly always something new to learn. At the same time it is always worthwhile going back to the basics. I have already been doing a little "homework" myself after discovering on social media a truly wonderful book about roses by author Rayford Clayton Reddell entitled *Growing Good Roses*, first published in 1988. Sadly Mr. Reddell is no longer with us, but his collection of rose books is still readily available for purchase from various online sources. In *Growing Good Roses* there are fabulous photographs of the compact and terraced rose garden at his San Francisco residence containing 100 roses, and later his Petaluma commercial rose ranch with over 4,000. More importantly, he covers all aspects of rose growing from selecting and buying roses, to purchasing, planting, pruning, deadheading, hybridizing, and finally detailed information about exhibiting, all in an entertaining and informative style. Consider adding this book to your rose library and you just may go to the head of the class.

Back to school isn't just for teachers and their students. Introducing children to the world around them is a responsibility for us all. Earlier this summer I joined the ARS Webinar hosted by horticulturist and landscape architect William Radler, hybridizer of the "Knock-Out" roses among others. I was so touched by his story in developing a keen interest in roses as a young boy. If there is a child in your life, whether that be your own child, a grandchild, niece, nephew, or neighbor, wouldn't this be a good year, as part of that child's education, to introduce them to roses? Why not consider purchasing a plant or two of their very own they can learn to care for? I've noticed two such roses in my garden that I think are particularly suitable for such an endeavor. 'Children's Hope', naturally, and 'Pillow Fight' both pictured on the next page for something that might really capture a child's attention and imagination. More important, both of these roses grow really well in pots, repeat quickly, are disease resistant while being covered with mini flowers. Being moderately thornless is a bonus. Grooming both of these roses can be done with relative ease as the spent petals of each cultivar seem to blow away into nowhere. Sweeping up what is left is very little trouble, and not too intense a task for a young person. On both roses, large delicate flower clusters form at the

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(President's message, continued from page 1)

the end of fairly slim canes, so a child could be taught where to deadhead using a kitchen shears, likely a bit safer than a traditional pruning shears. It was Benjamin Franklin who said, "Tell me and I forget. Teach me and I remember. Involve me and I learn." What varieties do you have that might spark a child's interest into learning about our wonderful world of roses?



'Children's Hope'



'Pillow Fight'

Monthly Program for September

'Back to School': A Panel of Rose Experts

By Kathy Hunyor, VP Programs, jkhunyor@san.rr.com

The San Diego Rose Society will meet for the first time IN PERSON in 18 months on Monday, September 20, 2021 at 7:30pm, in Room 101 of Casa del Prado in Balboa Park.

The main meeting is entitled "BACK TO SCHOOL." How many of us, in our youth, looked forward to the return to school, and to see old friends in September? A panel of some of our very own San Diego Rose Society expert rosarians and exhibitors, including Ken Huff, Gary Bulman, Bill and Elaine Ornelas, Robert Russell, Sue Streeper, and perhaps another surprise rose expert, will share their personal rose stories, wisdom, perspectives, and opinions on rose culture that surely will inspire and spark your curiosity. Questions from our many new SDRS members as well as long standing members are encouraged. Come prepared to ask your rose questions following the panel's informative discussion.

The meeting will also include a raffle, a T-shirt sale, introductions, catching up on rose society news, and will conclude with info and photos from the last SDRS rose show and Pacific Southwest District Convention held at the Marriott Hotel in El Cajon on June 12-13, 2021. A new feature to our monthly meetings will be a silent auction of five own-root roses facilitated by Bill Ornelas. (See page 3 for more information.)

Pre-meeting Rose Care Program with Q&A

From 7:00—7:30 p.m. Gary Bulman, Master Rosarian, will be presenting a short program in the Consulting Rosarian Corner about successfully growing roses. His program will be followed by a question and answer period to offer attendees a chance to have individual questions explored and solutions offered.

Directions to Casa del Prado, Room 101: The Casa del Prado building is immediately west of the Natural History Museum. Entrances to the Casa del Prado lead to an inner court. The rooms are accessible from the court. Room 101 is downstairs on the east end of the court.

See special notation regarding COVID restrictions and protective efforts for this meeting on the next page.

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To stay in compliance with current government health requirements/restrictions and to protect our members from COVID infection, attendees who are not fully vaccinated must wear masks for this indoor meeting. Per the CDC, if you are fully vaccinated, to maximize protection from the Delta variant and prevent possibly spreading it to others, wear a mask indoors in public if you are in an area of substantial or high transmission. We are planning on moving seating so that there is more distance between attendees.

To further protect our members there will be NO coffee service or unwrapped food items for this meeting. Please wait to bring your treats from home until we enter a safer time. There will be water bottles and a supply of wrapped granola bars and chips available.

Hand sanitizer will be available.

Our First Silent Auction!

By Bill Ornelas, bornelas1945@att.net

For those of you who attended the Pacific Southwest District Convention and SDRS Rose Show this past June, you will remember the success of both our silent and live auctions at that event. There were many roses auctioned and we added substantial funds to our SDRS treasury. Bob Martin served as the auctioneer of the very animated live auction.

Because of the success of those auctions, we have decided to add a smaller version to our monthly meetings. Prior to this month's meeting, there will be a silent auction with five roses on own root that I started from cuttings of some of our favorite roses. All of the roses were started in January 2021 and are in one-gallon containers. Included will be roses named for or hybridized by our SDRS members. The roses to be auctioned will be Dick Streeper's roses 'Sue Streeper' and 'Straight Arrow', 'Roger English' a sport of 'Playgirl' discovered by Ruth Tiffany, 'Col Phil Ash' a sport of 'Sunstruck' discovered by Gary Bulman's wife Sonja and 'Ruth Tiffany' a beautiful rose hybridized by Bob Martin. Minimum bid will be \$10 for these roses which are memorable to our society and its members.

Come early before the meeting starts and place your bid for these wonderful roses. There will be a sheet of paper in front of each rose with details of the rose along with a photo of the bloom. If you want to bid on a rose, just write the last four digits of your phone number and your bid amount on the sheet of paper. Each bid must increase by one dollar from the last bid. If you are unable to attend the meeting, you can give your phone# and your highest bid to a fellow member who would be attending and that person can bid for you.

All proceeds will be added to the SDRS treasury. This should prove to be a fun and competitive event! Come and join in and take home a special rose! If we find this auction to be successful, other roses will be offered in subsequent meetings.

Sample Auction Form

'Ruth Tiffany'

- ◆ Shrub
- ◆ Orange Blend
- ◆ Hybridizer: Bob Martin, 2018



Last 4 Digits of Phone#	Bid in \$\$\$
(starting bid)	\$10
4793	\$25
3572	\$30

20th Century Austin Shrubs

By Robert B. Martin Jr., ARS President and Master Rosarian, petrose@aol.com.

In our last Walk, I introduced you to a number of climbers in our garden that are classified as “English Style” shrubs. As I there explained, the American Rose Society has divided the Modern Shrub class into three separate classes, one denominated “English Style” shrubs. Here the term “English Style” echoes the term “English Rose”, a term in use for centuries but later appropriated by the late English breeder David Austin in his writing and the advertisement of David Austin Roses. In general, English Style roses in the new class resemble old garden roses in bloom form with double or very double petalage and decorative form. In addition, the blooms often have the fragrance associated with old garden roses. At the same time, the roses are typically recurrent bloomers with modern often disease-resistant foliage.

Ten of the “English Style” roses in our garden that grow as climbers were in fact bred by David Austin. These were discussed in the last installment. In this installment I turn to our David Austin English Style roses that grow as shrubs. It is worth noting, however, that the dividing line between a climber and a shrub is not all that clear when it comes to the Austin shrubs that as a general rule are quite vigorous in Southern California. And since in all, we grow 38 roses bred by David Austin that fall into this category, it is necessary that I divide them further into three separate installments. We will therefore begin with a brief history of David Austin roses followed by the David Austin roses in our garden introduced in the 20th Century.

David Austin Roses

David C. H. Austin (1926-2018) was a British rose breeder and writer who lived in Shropshire, England. Originally a farmer, David Austin as a young man bought a bush just after the Second World War of the rose ‘Stanwell Perpetual’, a chance seedling of ‘Autumn Damask’, a medium pink semi double damask introduced in an earlier installment of this series. ‘Autumn Damask’



‘Stanwell Perpetual’

was known before 1633 under any number of names, including the “Four Seasons” or “Quatre Saisons” rose. As I explained in that installment, the damask roses have long been used for the production of attar of rose for the perfume industry and are thought to have been brought from the Middle East to Europe sometime toward the end of the fourteenth century. A favorite of Shakespeare and other poets, most damasks bloom generally once in summer. In contrast ‘Autumn Damask’ is known to repeat bloom (hence its name), but not generously, and is often considered the first remontant or repeat-blooming of the Old European roses.

‘Stanwell Perpetual’, like ‘Autumn Damask’ has the quality of being repeat-blooming, at least occasionally. Austin also noted its double soft pink flowers of old rose appearance and its delicious fragrance. It struck him that if such a cross could happen by chance, there was no reason why a once-flowering old rose could not be hybridized with a repeat flowering modern rose to similar effect. This was the genesis of his seminal idea to combine the shrubby habit, charm and rich fragrance of old garden roses with the reliable repeat flowering and array of colors of modern roses like hybrid teas, floribundas and climbers.



‘Autumn Damask’

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The Foundation Rose – ‘Constance Spry’



‘Belle Isis’

To put this notion to the test, Austin selected the 1845 gallica ‘Belle Isis’, described in his words as a “short twiggy bush, tough and reliable” that “bears quite small flowers packed with short petals to form a charming rosette of delicate soft pink.” He then crossed it with the 1938 LeGrice floribunda ‘Dainty Maid’, “a modern rose also introduced in an earlier installment, with large foliage and a beautiful single clear pink flower with golden stamens. One seedling from this cross stood out from all the rest. It had very large full cupped flowers with silky petals of clear pink and a strong fragrance. It was also a large sprawling shrub that grew as a climber. It was named ‘Constance Spry’ after Constance Spry (*nee* Fletcher, 1886-1960), a then-recently deceased



‘Dainty Maid’

British educator, florist and author who had devoted years to the cultivation and promotion of old garden roses.

Recognized today as the foundation rose in the development of David Austin’s roses, ‘Constance Spry’ was introduced by Sunningdale Nurseries in 1961. At that time Austin had not yet started his own nursery so he turned to Graham Thomas, who was a partner and director of Sunningdale Nurseries. Graham Stuart Thomas OBE VMH (1909 – 2003) was an English horticulturist who is best known for his work with old garden roses, as well as his restoration and stewardship of over 100 National Trust gardens. Graham Stuart Thomas was also one of the first influential rosarians to recognize and promote the English Style roses of David Austin, in honor of whom in 1983, Austin named what is generally considered his finest rose ‘Graham Thomas’.



‘Constance Spry’

Although still in commerce today, ‘Constance Spry’ was far from the peak achievement David Austin had in mind, primarily because it is a once-bloomer like its seed parent ‘Belle Isis’. The repeat flowering gene in roses is recessive and to overcome this trait, ‘Constance Spry’ had to be back-crossed with repeat flowering roses to ensure the recurrent flowering characteristic. One of several roses selected by Austin for this purpose was a floribunda called ‘Ma Perkins’ bred by the American Gene Boerner in 1952. David Austin found ‘Ma Perkins’ had two excellent qualities: it produced a lot of seed that germinated well and it had nicely cupped flowers of old rose appearance. And, as he had anticipated, these crosses produced repeat flowering seedlings. By crossing these and bringing in further modern roses, Austin was able to develop a small group of plants that were reliably recurrent.



‘Ma Perkins’

By 1969 David Austin had a small range of English roses ready to be launched. As a farmer he had enough land on which to grow them himself so in 1970 he formed David Austin Roses nursery to offer them to the public. The first varieties available included ‘Wife of Bath’, ‘Canterbury’, ‘Dame Prudence’, ‘The Friar’, ‘The Knight’, ‘The Prioress’, and ‘The Yeoman’. And, in order to promote them to the English public, he drew on the rich traditions of English literature for names and began calling them “English Roses.”

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Austin Goes Red – ‘The Squire’

Nearly all of Austin’s first varieties were pink, like ‘Constance Spry’, so Austin turned his attention to breeding good red varieties. By crossing the deep crimson 1994 Le Grice floribunda ‘Dusky Maiden’ with the rich crimson-purple ancient Gallica, ‘Tuscany’ he bred the dark crimson red counterpart of ‘Constance Spry’, a very vigorous, fragrant but only once-flowering rose he named ‘Chianti’. He then turned to the dark red Bourbon ‘Gypsy Boy’, hybridized by Peter Lambert in 1909. ‘Gypsy Boy’ is a seedling of ‘Russelliana’ a vigorous hybrid multiflora known before 1826. The best rose from this cross was a bright crimson rose called ‘The Knight’, recognized as the first repeat-blooming red

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Austin rose. A subsequent cross of 'The Knight' with the old scarlet hybrid tea 'Chateau de Clos Vougeot' (Pernet- Ducher 1908) yielded '**The Squire**', Austin's best red rose which has also proved an excellent parent and responsible for many other red varieties introduced by David Austin Roses.

The oldest English Style rose by David Austin in our garden is in fact '**The Squire**', a dark red rose introduced by David Austin circa 1977. One of the best David Austin English roses, '**The Squire**' has huge dark red quartered blooms with good old rose fragrance. The bush is tall, bushy with dark green foliage. As a show rose, it became known in Southern California as "The Big Red Machine" winning best Modern Shrub on countless occasions shown primarily by my late friend Lynn Snetsinger.

I pause here to note that '**The Squire**' is no longer carried in the Austin catalogue raising the implication that it is outdated and that better reds have come along to replace it. A more likely explanation is that all patent or other protection on the propagation of '**The Squire**' has long since passed and Austin prefers for marketing purposes to emphasize its most current introductions over which it can have exclusive control. As for me, I continue to share the view of my late friend Lynn Snetsinger who said: "'**The Squire**' is the best exhibition shrub that Austin ever hybridized and is the standard by which all other shrubs seem to be judged."



'Prospero'

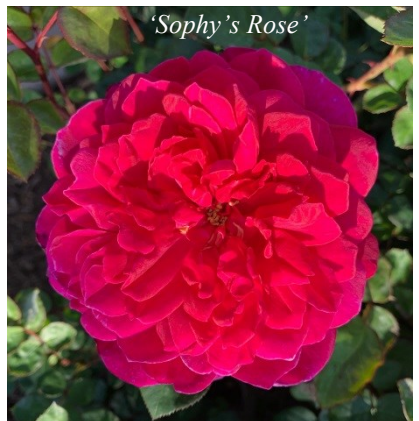
The same cross that produced '**The Squire**' also resulted in the excellent dark red Austin variety, '**Prospero**', which we grew in Arizona and have recently sought to add to our Escondido garden. '**Prospero**' features a bloom with a basilion distinctive pointed petals, arrayed in a perfect circle with a strong classic old rose fragrance. It is also a relatively mannerly plant, even short by typical Austin standards and therefore suitable for smaller gardens. Claiming its position as an "English Rose", '**Prospero**' is named after one of the characters in Shakespeare's romantic comedy, "The Tempest", aka the right Duke of Milan.

'**Prospero**', through a cross with an unnamed seedling subsequently begat '**Sophy's Rose**', a medium red in our garden introduced by David Austin Roses circa 1997. '**Sophy's Rose**' is a different red than the other Austin reds with a rosette bloom form of many petals not unlike '**Prospero**' but without the points on the petals.



'Falstaff'

It exhibits a strong fragrance described by HelpMeFind as "tea" but I don't smell the tea. It is somewhat more vigorous than '**Prospero**', making a bush perhaps 4-feet in height and as much around. '**Sophy's Rose**' was named after Sophy, the daughter of Wendy Fisher a founder of the English Charity Dyslexia Action.



'Sophy's Rose'

Another of the 20th Century Austin reds in our garden is '**Falstaff**', introduced circa 1999 of undisclosed parentage that most certainly includes '**The Squire**'. '**Falstaff**' is a very dark crimson of many petals in a typical perfect circle rosette, with a strong old rose fragrance. As a bush, however, '**Falstaff**' is ungainly, shooting off in all directions and difficult to shape into anything resembling a shrub. Like '**Prospero**' it also lays claim to being an English rose, named after the faithful companion of Prince Hal in three of Shakespeare's plays.

In the Pink – 'Mary Rose'

The second oldest Austin rose in our garden is '**Mary Rose**', a medium pink introduced circa 1983. The seed parent of '**Mary Rose**' is 'Wife of Bath', itself descended from a cross of 'Madame Caroline Testout' (an 1890 Hybrid Tea) and an unnamed seedling descended from '**Constance Spry**'. The pollen parent of '**Mary Rose**' is 'The Miller', descended from a cross of 'Baroness Rothschild' (an 1868 Hybrid Perpetual) by 'Chaucer', a 1970 Austin introduction also descended from Austin's first introduction, '**Constance Spry**'.



'Mary Rose'

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'Mary Rose' is one of the most popular Austin roses over the years, likely for historical reasons since **'Mary Rose'** is descended directly from **'Constance Spry'** on both sides and was one of the first pink Austin roses to reliably rebloom. It also mimics exactly a classid damask rose. To me the color is a pedestrian pink and the form somewhat loose, which makes it not much of a show rose. David Austin, however thought quite highly of it, arguing that it combined much of what he had been seeking to achieve: "good compact shrubby twiggy growth, excellent disease resistance and remarkable repeat flowering." Continuing, Austin observed: "Although it is not overwhelmingly fragrant, in many ways it is the ideal English rose. It has been the parent of some beautiful shrubs, including **'Kathryn Morley'** and **'Sharifa Asma'**. The eminent rosarian Peter Scheinder, whose opinion I value and respect, has said that **'Mary Rose'** is the best grower and bloomer of all the English roses of David Austin.



'Sharifa Asma'

The **Mary Rose** is a warship of King Henry VIII named for his sister Mary Rose Tudor. It was launched in 1511 and sank in action in 1545. The wreck of the **Mary Rose** was discovered in 1971 and was raised in 1982 by the **Mary Rose Trust** in one of the most complex and expensive maritime salvage projects in history. Its conserved hull is now on display at the **Mary Rose Museum** in

Portsmouth, England along with artifacts recovered from within the ship.

As mentioned, **'Sharifa Asma'** is a first generation descendant of **'Mary Rose'** and in our garden a much superior rose. **'Sharifa Asma'** was introduced circa 1989 and presents light pink, delicate almost translucent cupped blooms on a medium, even modest bush of perhaps 3x3 feet. Opinions do vary on its fragrance, which I find moderate and fresh. In addition to its relation to **'Mary Rose'**, **'Sharifa Asma'** is a third generation descendant of the white 1958 Boerner floribunda **'Ivory Fashion'**. **'Sharifa Asma'** was named after an Omani princess as a birthday present from her husband.

Another first generation descendant of **'Mary Rose'** in our garden is **'Eglantyne'**, a light pink introduced in 1994. Said to have a moderate, tea rose fragrance, **'Eglantyne'** has over 100 petals displayed as a mostly flat rosette of beautiful roundness, often quartered and sometimes displaying a button eye. In our garden it is a moderate bush of perhaps 4-5 feet in height and somewhat less around. **'Eglantyne'** was named after Eglantyne Jebb, from Shropshire, who founded the **Save the Children Fund**, a prominent U.K. charity.



'Eglantyne'

Climbing to Yellow – 'Aloha' and 'Iceberg'

Continuing to look for strength and health, David Austin turned to the medium pink climber **'Aloha'**, a 1949 introduction from Gene Boerner which apart from great vigor, had in his view "true Old Rose flowers that were extremely fragrant." Through **'Aloha'**, Austin raised a number of vigorous fragrant varieties, including the strong-growing apricot yellow **'Charles Austin'**, named for the father of David Austin.



'Aloha'

Another of Austin's offspring with **'Aloha'** is the exceptional **'Abraham Darby'**, introduced in 1985. Although considered an apricot blend, the blooms are apricot and light pink, tending toward the latter, with a pronounced fruity fragrance and about 70 petals on a fairly large quartered bloom. Drawing on the climbing propensity of **'Aloha'**, it tends to be tall and unmannerly, not quite a climber. **'Abraham Darby'** is a cross of **'Aloha'** × the medium yellow 1966 David Armstrong floribunda **'Yellow Cushion'**.

'Abraham Darby' is named after the industrialist Abraham Darby, the constructor of the first iron bridge, which is situated about nine miles from David Austin's nurseries. It was named in support of the **Ironbridge Gorge Museum Trust**, claimed as the birthplace of the Industrial Revolution.



'Abraham Darby'

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In the last installment, I introduced the exceptional yellow Austin climber, **'Graham Thomas'**, which was bred from a cross of **'Charles Austin'** × a seedling cross of the great floribunda **'Iceberg'**. David Austin has commented that **'Iceberg'** has had a marked influence on subsequent development of his English roses because it is exceptionally free flowering and continues late into the season. **'Charles Austin'** therefore contains the genes of the vigorous climber **'Aloha'**, as well as **'Iceberg'**, both of which have contributed to a number of apricot yellow English Style Austin roses that we grow in our garden.



'Graham Thomas'



'Ambridge Rose'

The oldest of the latter is **'Ambridge Rose'**, a very pleasant apricot blend introduced in 1990 and still offered in the Austin catalogue. Here we have light apricot smallish blooms, also tending to pink with a lot of loose petals and somewhat quartered form. For those into fragrance, **'Ambridge Rose'** strongly exhibits the anise/licorice fragrance Austin calls myrrh. The bush is somewhat low growing, especially so for an Austin rose, and would be an excellent choice for a more compact garden.

'Ambridge Rose' is a cross of **'Charles Austin'** × an unnamed seedling. It was named for the long-running BBC radio series, *The Archers*, set in the fictional village of Ambridge in England.

A cross of **'Charles Austin'** × **'Abraham Darby'** produced another of our favorites, the excellent deep yellow rose, **'Golden Celebration'**, introduced in 1992. **'Golden Celebration'** produces huge golden multi-petaled (55-75 petals) deeply cupped blooms on a sprawling vigorous plant. The blooms have an intense sweet fragrance. The Austin catalogue claims "a strong Tea fragrance, developing wonderfully combined notes of Sauternes wine and strawberry." That may or may not be true but suffice it to say that **'Golden Celebration'** is one of the most fragrant of the Austin roses and to my mind, presents the best of the Austin yellow blooms.



'Golden Celebration'

Another cross of **'Charles Austin'** × an unnamed seedling produced



'Teasing Georgia'

'Teasing Georgia', introduced in 1997. A recent introduction to our garden **'Teasing Georgia'** promises light yellow, shading to apricot blooms of cupped bloom form, borne mostly solitary. The bush is reported to be of medium height, somewhat vigorous, with semi-glossy, dark green foliage. **'Teasing Georgia'** was named for Ulrich Meyer, after his wife Georgia Tor-now; both German television personalities.

Displaying further my partiality to yellow roses is **'Charlotte'**, a light yellow introduced in 1994. **'Charlotte'** has a reported 100 petals, which I do not doubt, arranged in a medium-sized cup that appear individually and in small clusters on a medium size bush. Unlike most Austin roses, there is not much fragrance to report, although Austin claims a tea scent in its catalogue. **'Charlotte'** traces its breeding and yellow color to its pollen parent **'Graham Thomas'**. **'Charlotte'** was named after David Austin's granddaughter.



'Charlotte'

'Graham Thomas' is also in the parentage of another favorite yellow, **'Molineux'**, introduced in 1994. Here **'Graham Thomas'** is the seed parent, crossed with the climber **'Golden Showers'** × an unnamed seedling. **'Molineux'** produces a continuous display of lighter yellow multi-petaled (110 petals) blooms of loose rosette form on a medium upright bush with leathery foliage.

of loose rosette form on a medium upright bush with leathery foliage.

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'Molineux'

I first saw a photo of a bloom of **'Molineux'** on the cover of "The Rose", the then magazine of the Royal National Rose Society in which it was announced as the winner of the 1996 Henry Edland Memorial Medal for the Best Scented Rose, a prestigious medal awarded to but one trial grounds specimen a year. The photo of a highly fragrant yellow rose of exquisite rosette form was most appealing to me and **'Molineux'** went immediately on my want list. It was several years before I could acquire a specimen out of Canada, and some time after planting before the blooms on **'Molineux'** first appeared. The form and color were as advertised but alas I could detect no fragrance. Thinking this perhaps unique to me I asked visitor after visitor to smell **'Molineux'**, with none finding any scent. HelpMeFind equivocates on the point by reporting a "mild" fragrance and that "opinions vary". I have yet to find anyone to support the claim on the Austin website that **'Molineux'** has a "light-medium musky Tea Rose scent". Instead, it appears to me that **'Molineux'** holds the curious distinction of being the only unscented Austin rose to win a medal for fragrance.

For those curious about the name, Molineux is the home stadium of David Austin's favorite football (soccer) team, the Wolverhampton Wanderers Football Club in Wolverhampton, West Midlands, England. With that little tidbit of English Rose lore, we conclude this installment on 20th Century Austin roses to turn next month to our collection of 21st Century David Austin roses.

Crisis Averted for Burlington Nursery

By Elaine Ornelas, ornelas1949@att.net

Early in August of this year, we learned of a dire circumstance for a well-known rosarian in our state, Burling Leong. Apparently because of the drought, the water which is drawn from her well at her nursery, Burlington Roses, was nearing a critically low level. She was in need of a new well but did not have the funds to pay the \$70,000 needed for the well.

Burling is well known in our rose community for her rose budding and propagation skills. Many of us have purchased roses from her nursery or have attended one of her educational programs. She initially worked for renowned rosarian Ralph Moore for many years. So when the call came in the form of a GoFundMe request to financially assist Burling with the acquisition of a new well, the board members of our San Diego Rose Society responded along with several other rose societies in Southern California. It was decided that \$500 would be donated from our society toward this effort.

Good news! On August 6th, we received news that half of the funds needed by Burling had already been raised via GoFundMe with the other half sent through private donations, some from our own members. So now Burling had enough money to pay for her new well. So the SDRS board decided that since the funds had been previously raised, we would suspend our donation from our treasury. But our society was ready and willing to offer our funds for this worthy effort.

In so many instances such as this, our society and others have stepped up to assist with difficult situations for rosarians, with financial contributions or with donated labor. Just one more example of the generosity of spirit of our society. Burling was exceptionally grateful for the help which will allow her to stay in business providing beautiful roses for all of us to enjoy.



Rose Care Practices for September From Our Consulting Rosarians

Sliding Into September

By Christine and Rand Allan, callan@san.rr.com

We backed off on fertilizing the roses over July and August, but that wasn't a time to back off on anything else in the rose garden. Then, more important than ever, we patrolled for disease, pests and sufficient watering.

Now that September is fast approaching, we did a fall prune on our roses last week taking off about ¼ of the growth and clearing out the center of the rose bushes for adequate air circulation. We also inspected for any cane damage, and removed those as well. Doing this fall prune extends the blooming season for our roses with our mild climate. We left on buds that were about to bloom, to enjoy the last of the summer bloom. In September, we resume the same fertilizing schedule as in the Spring. The formula is a two-gallon bucket-feeding consisting of ½ cup Magnum Grow, 2 tablespoons of Sea Grow (seaweed plant food), 2 tablespoons of Better Than Fish, and a few drops of Jump Start, thoroughly diluting the solution with water to the top of the bucket. Each bush receives its own bucket of this fertilizer concoction. It is also a good time to make sure your roses have adequate mulch in the beds.

We have a drip watering system and run ten-minute watering cycles three times a week. During the warmer times this summer, we watered the roses four times a week to make sure they received adequate water. This takes into account the warmer weather over those periods of increased heat. In September, continue to keep a close eye out for any disease or pests that may appear in the garden. We are fortunate in Southern California to have the right kind of weather lengthening our rose growing season, so care for your roses by feeding and attending to them regularly which will bring you a couple more bloom cycles in the fall. I try to keep our roses blooming into late November to have an arrangement of them on our table as the centerpiece at Thanksgiving.

Below are a few photos of roses from our garden and two of the roses obtained at the rose auction in June (Maurice Utrillo and Margie). All the roses that we got at the auction are doing very well!



Maurice Utrillo



Celestial Night



Margie

September Rose Care at the 'End of the World Garden' in Crest

By Robert and Kristine Russell, rulsranch@cox.net

Summer has been quite warm up here in Crest at the 'End of the World Garden'. We have had our share of challenges with the heat. First of all we have had a problem with spider mites, with which we have not really had too much of an issue in the past but this year...Wow! Seems like from one day to the next, from one plant to the next, they spread like wildfire. But fortunately we have not had to deal with the latest pests.....the dreaded chilli thrips. So I decided to spray two weekends in a row in the middle of August and so far so good. For spider mites, I spray with Talstar and one time with the Bayer product mixed in. I usually mix Bayer Rose 3-in-1 Insect Disease and Mite Control since I backed off on the EZ-flow for the summer. I need to be sure that mites are listed on the product. So this coming weekend of August 28th we will get out and start our summer dead heading and summer cut (Ouch!) and that will mean all of the new growth that is just starting to happen will have to be cut. You just have to do it no matter how much it hurts to get ready for the fall bloom. I will also clean all of my filters within the EZ-flow system and will refill the EZ-flow with the 'Russell Juice' liquid fertilizer. Boy, our roses sure have missed the extra juice this summer as our blooms have been few and far between and very small. Cannot wait to see all of you wonderful members at our first meeting at Balboa in September. See you then!

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September Rose Care at the Ornelas Garden in Clairemont

By Elaine Ornelas, cornelas1949@att.net

August finished off with a wave of heat and humidity but our roses are looking fine. Fortunately for us, no spider mites or chilli thrips! We are very relieved. During the last days of August and at the beginning of September we are performing our fall pruning for our roses in preparation for the fall rose shows. We are pruning about 1/4 to 1/3 of each rose bush except for the climbers, shrubs and OGRs. It was very challenging since some of them had some early blooms forming. But if we want to coincide with the show dates, we need to prune now.

We have been spraying organic fungicides (Serenade and Actinovate) about every 2-3 weeks to suppress any residual fungal infections. We will be fertilizing in September with our 'Magic Formula' of fish emulsion, seaweed extract, Epsom salts, Bio-coenzyme, Jumpstart, humic acid, and iron chelate dissolved in 50 gallon rain barrels. We use our sump pump connected to a long hose to distribute 1 gallon to large established roses and 1/2 gallon to miniature or smaller-sized rose bushes from these rain barrels. We have found the sump pump method to be a great help to us so that we don't have to carry buckets to each bush. It saves our backs! We will also be spreading John and Bob's Soil Optimizer, Bio-Start and alfalfa meal to each bush.

Watering rose bushes adequately at this time is critical as we can anticipate dry Santa Ana winds. We have a drip irrigation system on a timer and adjust the timer so that our bushes are getting the correct amount of water. We check the soil of the roses randomly to be sure there is enough moisture. Potted roses which are not on the drip irrigation system require much more attention and during warm weather we water them by hand 2-3 times weekly.

One of the best tools in our 'rose care bucket' is our morning 'garden tour' checking on the condition of each rose. We 'listen' to the roses as they let us know if they need help with something!

- ◆ Are the blooms or new sprouts wilting? (this is most likely due to a water deficiency)
- ◆ Is there a new outbreak of fungal disease? (check references for types of fungal disease for roses and their treatments...common ones are blackspot, rust, powdery mildew)
- ◆ Is there evidence of cane die-back? (canes show discoloration of yellow and bronze; need to prune back to a healthy green cane)
- ◆ Are there pests and their damage evident on the leaves, blooms or canes? Aphids (can be blasted with water; spider mites (can also be blasted with water but can also be sprayed with a miticide); chilli thrips and flower thrips (can be sprayed with a Spinosad containing product); scale (can be controlled with horticultural spray); grasshoppers (if they are eating new buds and leaves you just have to 'dispatch' them with pruners); cutter bees (these bees make precise round cuttings on rose leaves but do not create much damage; no need to try to eliminate them; just appreciate the designs!) rose slugs (squish them by hand or spray with insecticidal soap or Spinosad for heavy infestations)

But often we are happy to observe that there are many beneficial insects around the roses. We see lady beetles and their larvae fast at work devouring aphids. Hover flies are swirling around and love seeing them as their larvae also eat aphids. We are in the process of raising monarch and swallowtail butterflies and it is such a joy to release them. But it also means that we do not spray any of the insecticides that would harm their caterpillars. We have several milkweed plants among our roses which are the monarchs' only food plant. It is a fine balance.

So our recommendations for caring for your roses this month are: adequately water and fertilize them, and observe for pests using the least toxic methods to rid your roses of them.

But most importantly, enjoy your roses! Our gardens have been given to us as a sanctuary, especially during these long months the COVID pandemic. For all of the times when we thought we could not venture out in the world for fear of our own safety, we CAN stroll through our rose gardens, being enormously grateful for the grace they bring to us.



Above: Our first swallowtail release

Addendum to article in July's Rose Ramblings article about spider mites: Bob Martin suggested that I clarify my information about what type of products will best treat these pests. Spider mites are not insects, but are a relative of the spider and so cannot be effectively treated with those products labeled only as an 'insecticide'. The best product for treatment is a miticide.

Notes for Novices

By Elaine Ornelas, cornelas1949@att.net

When we first began to grow roses in earnest years ago, I wish we had heard some of these useful tips. Here are some suggestions to keep the growing of roses simple and enjoyable.

- ◆ **Growing roses is really not that complicated.** It requires knowledge about what any plant needs....light, food and water. Beyond that it is necessary to know about measures to control the pests and diseases that plague roses.
- ◆ If you have never grown roses before **start with just a few.** It is easier to manage a few rather than be overwhelmed by many.
- ◆ Research the important elements of **good soil** as they relate to roses.
- ◆ Do your '**Garden Walk**' every day through your rose garden. Observe for problem diseases and pests but also enjoy the beauty of your rose garden!
- ◆ **Contact a Consulting Rosarian** and ask them lots of questions about rose care. These are the experts in our rose society and they probably have seen just about all of the challenges you are experiencing. They will also dispel any of the myths and 'Old Wives Tales' that you might hear about growing roses.
- ◆ If possible, set an appointment to visit the **rose gardens of experienced rosarians.** Ask for advice if their garden is remarkable.
- ◆ **Don't take roses too seriously** and don't be intimidated by them! Don't fear if you see some leaves with holes or yellow spots. But keep watch for the beginning of fungal disease and the damage done by pests. Know your enemies!
- ◆ **Join your local rose society and the American Rose Society.** These are amazing resources for 'all things roses'.
- ◆ Most Important: **Enjoy your Roses!** Share them! Embrace them!

Did You Know?

*A gathering or swarm of ladybugs is called a 'Loveliness of Ladybugs'.
How wonderful to contemplate that phrase!*



American Rose Society 2021 Election Results

The Triennial Election for the American Rose Society leaders took place in July 2021. This election determined the leaders for the ARS for the next three years. The September/October 2021 *American Rose* will contain additional information about the final voting results of the election. Your participation in the election was valued to insure that the leadership of our national rose society is sound.

Here are the final results of the voting. We are happy to acknowledge that our own Linda Clark will remain as Director of the Pacific Southwest District. Congratulations to all of the elected officials. We are grateful for your leadership. We are especially grateful for the dedication and accomplishments of Bob Martin, who served as ARS President for the past three years.

- ⇒ ARS President: Diane Sommers
- ⇒ ARS Vice-President: Craig Dorschel
- ⇒ Southwest Region Director: Kreg Hill
- ⇒ Pacific Southwest District Director: Linda Clark

2021 Roses In Review Reminder

By Kathy Monge, Pacific Southwest District Roses in Review coordinator

I am back for another round of “Pleh!” from me to get all of you wonderful rose gardeners to help rate the newer roses that you grow or even just to let us know that you do not grow any of these roses. Just like at the election polls, your vote does matter.

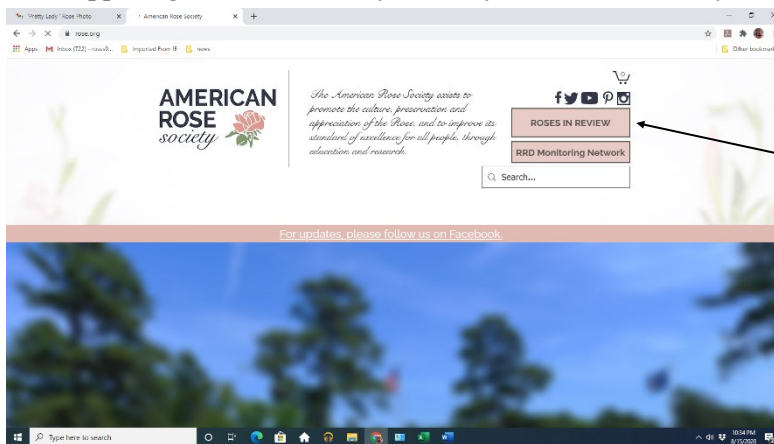
As I write this, we are down to the last month of this process for 2021. Too busy in the garden now that the temperatures are 90-100 degrees? Too many rose shows and meetings? The dog ate my *American Rose* and I do not know what the ARS web site is? No good excuses yet again for this year. You are home so let’s get this done. Our Pacific Southwest District has the most diverse climate and the driest of any other district in the country. Growing fabulous roses for us presents immense challenges. We have 6 months or more of no rain. Couple this with the intense dry heat and winds. So yes, it does matter. The more input, the greater our voices can be heard in the permanent ratings for the *Selecting Roses* handbook.

As of August 20th only 84 reviewers from our 800 member group have done this survey.

Attention Consulting Rosarians and Master Rosarians: We are leaders and as such we need ALL of you to complete this survey. Tom Cooney will be making his naughty list for those who neglect this chore.

Let me review what you need to know to do this:

1. The ARS web site is www.rose.org (Click this link to take you there)
2. There is a video to watch and show you how to do this to walk you through the entire rating process on this front page of the web site. Please watch this as I did and it is quite helpful OR
3. In the upper righthand corner is your entry to the site to start your journey



Go to this box

4. After you have typed your email address, use your mouse to highlight (right click the mouse and drag over the area to copy) the email address and press the Ctrl and C keys. That will copy the information so you will not need to retype it for each rose you are reviewing. (This works for those using Windows operating systems) The next rose reviewed press Ctrl V to paste your email in.
5. We do not have a real winter so the Winter Hardy question should be the choice of “I do Not Know.”
6. Look at the list of roses before you review so you will know which part of the alphabet you need to choose from.
7. Our district is PSWD (Pacific Southwest District)
8. Another option is to fill out the paper version and mail it to me. So far only 3 reviewers have opted for this. I really do not mind doing this.
9. You do not have to wear a mask to do this.

Here’s my email address and you may ask me or send your review as an attachment:

Roses92707@gmail.com

Thank you for helping us!

Rules Just Gotta Make Sense

By Rita Perwich, Master Gardener and Consulting Rosarian ritaperwich@gmail.com

A directive followed by the explanation “because I said so” just doesn’t work. It didn’t work well for my mom when she used it on me and it has never worked for me when I try it on my daughters. Breaking rules feels like no big deal if the rules don’t make sense. Chances are you are the same. So I am guessing that when you read instructions for rose care with insistent directives: *do, look, cut out, prune, pick off, add, dig...* If it doesn’t make sense, you are just going to shrug your shoulders and ignore the advice. The following are some explanations. I am hoping they make sense to you so you will do them. They are important and I promise not just because I said so!

Instruction: Prune your roses annually.

Reason: Pruning encourages the growth of more blooms and shapes the plant for its best appearance. This is the chance to cut out the previous year’s diseased and pest-infested leaves and blooms. It also opens up the plant to light and air which minimizes disease and enables the rose bush to resume growth in the early spring on strong, healthy canes. In San Diego, we prune our roses in late December and January.

Instruction: We need to add organics such as compost and an organic mulch to our soil annually.

Reason: A porous, organically rich soil encourages deep growth of the anchor roots and ample food, air and water for our roses’ feeder roots. Soil contains important microorganisms such as bacteria, algae and fungi, but we need to periodically apply organic material such as compost, aged manures, humic acid and mulch into and onto our soils to ensure that the roots have the nutrients to provide our roses with everything they need to flourish.

Instruction: If you spray, identify the pest first, and then target it with the least toxic pesticide.

Reason: Do not use broad spectrum insecticides as they kill not only insect pests but they also wipe out beneficial insects and beneficial soil fungi. Even organic pesticides can have a negative impact on some beneficial insects and must be used only when there is no bee activity.

The beneficial lady beetles and larvae munch on pests. Don't jeopardize them by using broad-spectrum pesticides.



Instruction: Plant a variety of plants in your garden and include pollen- and nectar-rich companion plants. Provide water for birds.

Reason: Growing a diverse palette of plants minimizes disease and encourages beneficials. Water also attracts birds and in return, the birds feed on caterpillars. The beneficial lady beetles and larvae, hoverfly and lacewing larvae, assassin bugs, soldier bugs and minute pirate bugs all munch on pests.

Growing a diverse palette of plants to minimize disease and encourage beneficials. Here, floribunda Frida Kahlo is grown with alstroemeria and foxgloves



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Instruction: Cut out inward growth.

Reason: It seems counter-intuitive to remove leaves since we know that leaves are needed by the rose to collect sunlight and conduct photosynthesis which produces food for the plant. But when you notice clusters of leaves in a tangle of inward growth, cut some of them out to let air circulation and light back into the center of the bush. Pests don't want to be found so they find cover deep in the center of the rose bush, hidden from plain view. There, they are busy and always up to no good. The chewing pests chew and the sucking pests suck. Unobserved for just a few days, they get a strong foothold in the garden. Dense inward growth also provides cover for diseases especially those that thrive on moisture and humidity.

Instruction: Don't just ignore a blind shoot.

Reason: Not every stem produces a bloom. When a stem terminates in leafy growth in place of a bud, this is called a blind shoot. If you just leave it, it is a road to nowhere and will never bear flowers. Since we are growing roses for blooms, when we notice the blind shoot, we have two choices: if the growth is healthy and vigorous and growing outward, we cut back the blind tip above one of the leaves in order to allow the rose to re-try to set a bloom; if the blind shoot is growing toward the inside of the bush and cluttering up the inside of the rose bush, we 'open up' the plant and remove the entire stem to promote air circulation and minimize nefarious pest activity and fungal disease. When we catch inward growth early, we can 'thumb prune' it.

A blind shoot is a stem terminating in leafy growth and needs to be cut to allow the rose to re-try to set a bloom.



Instruction: Cut out blooms and leaves infested with fungal diseases and pests, pick up leaves and petals.

Reason: Every time you cut out, pick up and dispose of infected leaves and petals you are reducing disease and pest infestation in the garden both for this year and next year as some diseases and pests overwinter in the garden on debris.

Cut out blooms and leaves infested with fungal diseases. The blooms here are infested with botrytis.



Instruction: Deep water your roses so they develop a healthy deep root system.

Reason: Water is indispensable for photosynthesis and is vital to the transport of nutrients to the plant. Deep roots assist our roses to stay cooler and more hydrated in hot weather, a big advantage over roots that remain at the soil surface because of frequent and inadequate applications of water. Irrigate longer in hotter weather and during Santa Ana winds to offset water loss due to transpiration.

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Instruction: When the rose has bloomed, deadhead (cut out) the bloom.

Reason: Deadheading throughout the year encourages re-flowering. We can initiate faster bloom cycles and better blooms when we prune and deadhead our roses.

When the rose has bloomed, deadhead the bloom to re-encourage blooming. Roses shown are shrub Lyda Rose and floribunda Laverander Veranda



You've now got the playbook for success in your rose garden. I hope the reasons for all the instructions made sense to you. If they did, now it's up to you to get your rose garden squared away and beautiful.

Horizon Roses 2021

By Robert B. Martin Jr., ARS President and Master Rosarian, petrose@aol.com.

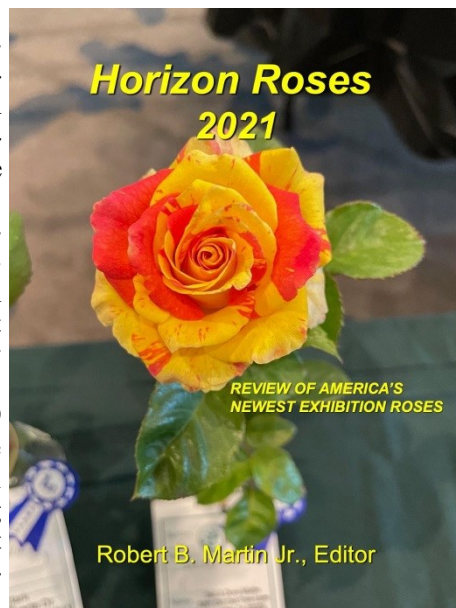
I am asked from time to time how I go about deciding which new roses to add to our garden. The answer is that there are lots of ways, including viewing catalogues and websites, attending auctions, visiting gardens and seeing roses at rose shows. Of all the ways, the most important is from my work with the annual publication, *Horizon Roses*.

In 1987, as a wannabe new rose exhibitor I became aware of and purchased a publication then called *The Autumn Checklist of Horizon Roses*. Exhibitors, I had learned, enjoy sharing with each other their experiences of the newest roses in their gardens. And, on that principle, Bill McMahon of Bowling Green Kentucky, had started *The Autumn Checklist of Horizon Roses* as a two-page mimeographed Tenarky District project in 1983 with the objective of providing candid reports on the exhibition potential of the newest exhibition roses. The publication drew interest not only from the district but from other areas of the country, and in a short time Bill took it national, recruiting a core of regional editors who in turn built a group of reporters spreading throughout the country. Bill continued to call his booklet *The Autumn Checklist of Horizon Roses* but readers referred to it simply as *Horizon Roses* and, in 1994, Bill "caved in" to the "populist sentiments" and renamed it *Horizon Roses*.

In 1992, following my initial success as an exhibitor, I became a reporter for *The Autumn Checklist of Horizon Roses*. Thereafter, in 1995 I was elevated to the position of Southwest Regional Reporter, a position I continue to hold to this day. Then in 2006, following Bill's retirement, I became the National Editor at his request. The recent publication of *Horizon Roses 2021* is therefore the 16th edition produced under my supervision.

Now in its 39th year, *Horizon Roses* is an annual compilation of comments by the nation's top rose exhibitors on the exhibition potential of the newest hybrid teas, floribundas, miniflora and miniature roses. The 2021 Edition adds for the first time comments on polyanthas and modern shrubs. For most exhibitors, it has long been considered the indispensable guide to buying new show roses.

Horizon Roses 2021 contains 1,752 reports by 143 reporters from 29 different states on the exhibition potential of 263 roses introduced in the last five years. The reports include 107 new roses not mentioned in the prior issue. All comments are candid and reported in the words of the reporter. Supplementing the comments are individual color photographs of 260 roses. The reports are set forth alphabetically and include statistics of the show results of the reported varieties. In addition, information is provided on known sources for the reviewed varieties.



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Horizon Roses 2021 is produced entirely by volunteers under my direction as National Editor and seven regional editors. The regional editors solicit and compile the comments from selected top exhibitors in their region and forward them for final compilation. The reporters include many in the San Diego Rose Society, not only me but Linda Clark, Gary Bulman, Ken Huff, Sue Streeper, Ruth Tiffany, Bill & Elaine Ornelas and Kathy Strong.

Horizon Roses 2021 is available in electronic format for Kindle at a price of \$9.95. It can be ordered at Amazon.com here.

<https://www.amazon.com/dp/B09BLF6ZGJ>

Horizon Roses 2021 is also available at Amazon in a 265-page 8 1/2 x 11 full color paperback version for \$42.95. These are printed with a premium color interior with white paper and a glossy cover. The quality is very good and well worth the premium price.

Horizon Roses 2021 is also available as a reduced PDF directly at \$9.95. For further information, feel free to contact me.

Helping to Carry the Load

By Elaine Ornelas, cornelas1949@att.net

Our good friends, John and Barbara Lester continue to champion through John's medical challenges. But their roses are being nursed along by some of our SDRS members. Earlier this year Beth Van Boxtel visited the Lesters and harvested some beautiful photos of this wonderful couple and their remarkable roses. In August, as John's medical issues became a more prominent part of their lives, some of our SDRS members stepped up to help with rose maintenance. Once more our members proved that we have a big heart and reach out to other members in need.

Here are a few photos of the Lesters' roses and the members helping out. Not everyone who helped is pictured below so here are the names of members that helped over two Saturdays: Steve Dillard, Kirk Rummel, Linda & Mike Pelligrino, Melinda Bourg, Debbie Magnuson, Zella Burk, Courtney Yezzi (a new member from the rose show), and Kathy Hunyor. What a wonderful way to keep our mission alive of helping each other in our society.



Clockwise from upper left: John and Barbara Lester, Natalie Stout, Kathleen Hider and Marcia Giles, and roses 'Shannon Lanaya', 'Lavaglut', 'Olivia Rose'



The Lion and the Lamb—Roses and Monarch Caterpillars

By Rita Perwich, Master Gardener and Consulting Rosarian ritaperwich@gmail.com

“The caterpillar does all the work, but the butterfly gets all the publicity.” ~George Carlin

The phrase ‘the lion and the lamb’ is an expression that expresses peace between two unlikely partners. This title might seem incongruous when applied to roses and caterpillars but in actual fact it describes to perfection the partnership that plays out in my garden between my roses and monarch caterpillars and butterflies.

Monarch caterpillars have many endearing qualities. They are really attractive caterpillars with yellow, black and white stripes. They create a beautiful green chrysalis flecked with gold dots and a gold stripe within which they pupate and metamorphose into a lovely, graceful orange, black and white monarch butterfly. But for me, one of their most lovable qualities is their monotrophic diet: all they eat is milkweed.

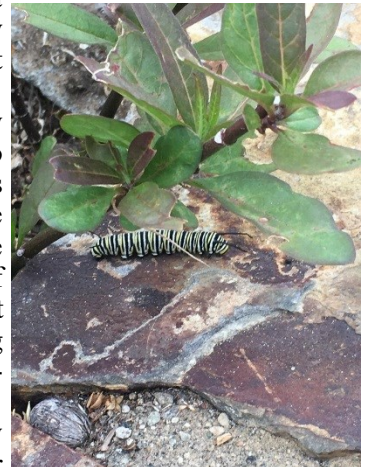
We all love seeing butterflies wafting through our gardens and we all know that before those butterflies became butterflies, they were very hungry caterpillars that ate and ate many plants including our roses. Eric Carle describes the caterpillar’s eating frenzy perfectly in his classic book, *The Very Hungry Caterpillar*. So the gardener in me enjoys only the butterfly stage of the members of the order *Lepidoptera*...except when it comes to monarch caterpillars. These caterpillars are so welcome in my garden! In fact, I took out the sidewalk lawn and replaced it with four large rectangular planter beds in which I grow colorful nectar and pollen plants and flowers to invite and tantalize pollinators, and I grow milkweed specifically to let the monarch butterflies know that their family is very welcome in my garden.

This bias in favor of monarch caterpillars may seem unfair to all the other caterpillars that I snip in half. But I can trust monarch caterpillars in my rose garden. Unlike other caterpillars, I know they won’t chew up my roses’ leaves or feed on my rose buds and blooms. In short, monarch caterpillars exist together very peaceably with my roses. In appreciation, I treat these caterpillars with loving kindness and ensure that there is always a plentiful supply of milkweed for them to chomp on in my garden. In return, they bestow me with the joy of watching them grow and transform into butterflies that glide and flit gracefully in gardens in the neighborhood pollinating plants and bringing delight.

So, for the third year in a row a successful monarch wonder plays out daily in my sidewalk garden. I witness the newly hatched tiniest caterpillars munching their way to becoming big hungry caterpillars. The biggest caterpillars then make their adventurous trek across the sidewalk to the roses planted outside our wrought iron fence. The first time I spotted a monarch caterpillar on a rose leaf I chided it and carried it over back to the milkweed with a gentle reprimand. But then I started to notice the chrysalises hanging off and adorning rose stems, rose leaves and our wrought iron fence. The caterpillars aren’t making the voyage across the sidewalk to eat the roses. They are making the bold crossing because they somehow innately know that there are safe and secret places to make chrysalises among the roses.

Another super COOL event is that through these caterpillars I am making new acquaintances daily with the cutest children! Some spot the caterpillars. Others discover them because when I hear a child say, “Mom, look! Butterflies!” I can’t resist going out to introduce them to all the caterpillars from the tiniest to the largest. I point out the green and gold-flecked chrysalises, the chrysalises that are translucent black with the orange wings showing through, and the empty chrysalis casings that may look flimsy but can hang on for months. I explain to them that the chrysalis is actually always clear and it is not the chrysalis that changes color. The color change is that of the pupa inside that starts green and then gradually transforms itself into the adult colors.

So there are a lot of children learning excitedly about the wonder of nature and the wonder of the monarch butterflies right outside my rose garden. They pose questions with such wide-eyed amazement, and I know they are storing away their happy first impressions of these pretty striped caterpillars, chrysalises and butterflies among the roses. Some of these families are now growing their own milkweed with ‘starter’ caterpillars from my garden. Milkweed does seed itself and because I trust the monarch caterpillars so implicitly I have even started to allow milkweed to seed itself amongst my roses. This saves the caterpillars the treacherous march across the sidewalk where they risk being trodden upon.



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Facts about Monarchs

The monarch butterfly undergoes four stages of metamorphosis: egg, larva, pupa and adult. Eggs are usually laid singly on the underside of a milkweed leaf plant. They eclose (hatch) as caterpillars in 3 or 4 days and immediately start eating milkweed. In this larval stage the caterpillar goes through five major, distinct stages of growth (called instars). Each instar molts and gets progressively larger. Depending on various factors such as temperature and food availability, each instar usually lasts about 4 to 5 days. As it eats, the caterpillar stores energy in the form of fat and nutrients to carry it through the non-feeding pupal stage. The fifth instar or last stage of the larva is often found away from milkweed plants as it is now seeking a suitable place in which to pupate, the interim stage when the caterpillar magically transforms itself into a butterfly. Attaching itself to a plant or other suitable support using silk it produces, the caterpillar hangs head-down in a “J” shape. It sheds for the last time as it encapsulates itself into a chrysalis. Monarch metamorphosis from egg to adult can occur in as little as 25 days during the warm summer temperatures but takes longer during cool spring conditions. In the summer, the pupa matures in about 10 to 14 days during which time the adult butterfly is forming inside. Within a day or so before the butterfly emerges, the exoskeleton is complete and the wings have become their final vibrant orange, black and white colors. The chrysalis has transformed in appearance from green to bluish-black and now it appears translucent with the butterfly’s wings clearly visible. As the adult butterfly emerges it hangs upside down for a while until its wings are dry. It flaps its wings to pump fluids into them. And then it is ready to set off on its wondrous first flight! Twenty-four hours later, the butterfly purposefully starts its search of nectar plants.



Clockwise from upper left:

- *Female butterfly lays eggs on milkweed plant*
- *Mature (larger) instar showing beautiful yellow, white and black stripes with younger, smaller instar being lighter in color*
- *Competition is keen for food*
- *Caterpillar hangs upside down in 'J' shape prior to becoming a chrysalis*
- *Caterpillar preparing to become chrysalis on rose leaf*
- *Green and gold-flecked chrysalis*
- *A few days before butterfly emerges, chrysalis shows orange and black wings*
- *A new butterfly drying its wings*
- *The empty casing after butterfly emerges*



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During the breeding season adults reach sexual maturity in four or five days, and monarchs typically live for two to five weeks during their breeding season. However, migrating monarchs can live up to 8 to 9 months, and their last generation of the year does not reach maturity until over-wintering is complete.

Friend of the Monarchs

When we care deeply about something, we realize that there is no end to the questions we can ask and the answers we need to seek. Thank goodness I attended a master gardener advanced education class on monarch butterflies. It was presented by Judith Wolinsky, a fellow San Diego Master Gardener. Wolinsky is a monarch butterfly and monarch garden expert, and the founder of [Monarch & Friends](#). This is a group of mostly local monarch gardeners and those interested in monarchs, and it's free to join. The email address to join is monarchandfriends@gmail.com. I am so grateful to Wolinsky for her generosity in answering all my burning questions about everything to do with the monarchs, and for assisting me in getting the correct facts about monarchs for this article.

Facts about milkweed

The toxic cardenolides in milkweed provide protection to the monarch caterpillars from many predators including birds. There are two kinds of milkweed, native and non-native. There are six native San Diego varieties and various non-native ones. I am growing the tropical milkweed which is easier to find in the nursery. Unlike tropical milkweed, native milkweed goes dormant over the winter. This means that we can have monarch gardens all year around in San Diego. That may sound like a good thing but it is not. Research has shown that a monarch parasitic protozoan called *Ophryocystis Elektroscirra* (OE) increases in percentage when milkweed does not go dormant. This is a big problem because OE infected butterflies may not be able to fly well, have a healthy weight or live as long as non-infected monarchs. Until recently monarch experts heavily promoted growing only native milkweed. However, in recent years a compromise has been found. We can duplicate native milkweed dormancy to prevent female monarchs laying eggs by cutting back tropical milkweed a few inches above the ground by mid-November. We then re-cut the milkweed if needed to maintain it at that height from mid to end of February. At each cutting, the leaves and stalks must be carefully cut and immediately disposed by bagging to avoid dispersal of any microscopic OE spores. When cutting milkweed be very cautious. I wear sunglasses and disposable gloves when I cut milkweed as the sap can be very irritating to the skin and can also be very dangerous if it gets in your eyes.

Female monarchs lay hundreds of eggs over the season. To prevent the female from laying eggs some time before cutting the milkweed back, Wolinsky suggested that I cover the milkweed with an inexpensive paint strainer bag (1 or 5 gallon, found at home improvement stores or on-line), leaving the bottom open for the caterpillars to move across the sidewalk to make their chrysalises. I will definitely implement this suggestion as last year I was forced to delay cutting back my milkweed as I kept seeing caterpillars.

On the plus side of the tropical non-native versus native milkweed debate, Wolinsky states that in various research studies that she has read, the former has been found to have higher levels of the protective cardenolides. She says that some monarch gardeners who grow both non-native and native milkweed in their gardens have told her that the female butterflies appear to like the tropical milkweed better than the native milkweed to lay their eggs, but others have told her the reverse. In my garden, there is scarcely a nibble on the one and only native milkweed plant that I planted in the late spring.

There is a Fly in the Ointment

Up to now, my relationship to insects has been simple. In my mind, insects are perfectly and simply sorted: an insect is a pest if it causes damage to my plants and a beneficial when it is a predator of a pest insect. But with my concern for monarchs, I have discovered that my simple method of sorting of pests is actually like most matters in our lives: not at all simple and actually quite complicated.

I have long lauded and sung the praises of the tachinid fly which is considered a beneficial in the rose garden. But my feelings about this fly have changed dramatically. The tachinid fly poses a major threat to the survival of the monarch caterpillars and chrysalises. The tachinid fly larvae can infest and kill caterpillars. The adult lays eggs on the back of a caterpillar and once hatched, the larvae burrow into the caterpillar and start feeding on it. When the monarch caterpillar gets ready to pupate and hangs head-down in its "J" shape, the tachinid larvae kill it (pictured at right). Each tachinid larva then makes a "silk" string, descends and burrows in the soil where it forms a hard shelled pupa and emerges later as an adult. The tachinid larvae sometimes wait until the caterpillar has become a chrysalis to kill the pupa. Lately, I have also observed spiders,



continued on page 21

also a garden beneficial, 'silking' milkweed leaves together. I suspect that they are doing this to hide in the milkweed to prey on the monarch caterpillars. To keep the monarchs safe from tachinid flies, spiders and other predatory insects, some monarch gardeners raise their monarchs' eggs and/or caterpillars in mesh butterfly cages.

Leaving it Up to Nature

As gardeners, we want to be awash in peace, in touch with nature and interconnected with all earth's creatures. But in a garden, peace-rattling factors come at us from all directions. Our roses get chewed and marred by fungal diseases. And, monarch caterpillars get attacked by tachinid flies and spiders, and infected with OE spores. My decision to not use pesticides in my garden requires the willingness to give up some control and to trust that somehow nature knows better than I. At times, it takes courage and a massive leap of faith because I know that letting go can lead to unpredictable and unwanted outcomes. But I firmly believe that trusting nature leads to balance and a healthy garden and a healthy ecosystem, and I get satisfaction in working with nature and allowing nature to reciprocate and help me. So I am going to leave my industrious monarch caterpillars in my garden and trust that the majority of them are going to transform and become beautiful butterflies. It is awesome to provide children with their first glimpses of how wondrous nature is and I can't help but believe they will always remember the pretty striped caterpillars among the roses. It makes the world seem so simple, kind, gentle and good. Truth be told they may not remember the roses but the roses are the setting for this wonderful transformation of life.

'Stop and smell the roses' is a wise saying that uses roses as the vehicle to convey an important wellness message. Roses and monarch butterflies provide the prompt: our inclination on seeing a monarch butterfly is to stop and pause what we are doing, and our inclination on seeing a rose is to bend down to smell it. Roses and monarch butterflies coexist peacefully and together are partners in creating harmony. The rose garden embellished with monarch butterflies fluttering in the breeze adds yet another dimension to interact with nature, dwell deeply in the present moment, feel truly alive, and smile.

Membership Update

By Kirk Rummel, Membership Chair, knrummel@sbcglobal.net

Can we hope that the worst is over? Let's all hope so we can have our first face-to-face meeting in almost two years! If all goes well we are planning for our September meeting to be a super event as described elsewhere in this newsletter. You will get a good immersion in roses. That is for sure.

But as Membership Chair I am particularly hopeful that we can use this opportunity to get to know our fellow members as well. Do you realize that our new members since the pandemic started now number over 160 (79 in 2020 and 86 so far in 2021)? This means **over half** of our current members (301 as of the end of Aug) have **never had the opportunity** to meet each other in a rose society meeting! Boo....

So let's make up for this. First, **plan to come**. Parking is easy.....right next to our meeting room. If you need a ride let me know and I'll arrange something. My phone is 858-213-1189 and my email is below.

We want to make this meeting a real celebration of our new membership so we will have special name tags and if you identify yourselves new friendships will be the result! We are excited.

So, the latest new folk in July and August that we will be welcoming are:

Lynn and Mitchell Kam
Kathy Petock
Paul Greene
Carin Cross
Esla Andrew and
Toni Simonetti

Heads Up! It's almost time to renew for 2022.

The membership renewal form can be completed and payment submitted using this online link:

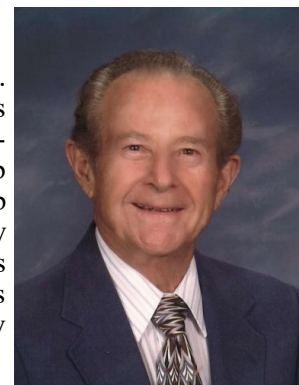
<https://www.sandiegorosociety.com/join>

Please plan to submit your membership form by the deadline of December 31st. Thank you.

In Memoriam

Frank Hastings, December 11, 1926—August 7, 2021

We were sad to hear of the recent passing of long-time SDRS member Frank Hastings. He was also a member of the former East County Rose Society. For many years he acted as historian for SDRS. His late wife, Lila, was an outstanding rose arranger. Most recently he attended the 2019 SDRS Rose Show where our own Bob Martin spent some time with him. Bob says “He was a kind man who always had a good word for me and simply loved roses.” Bob also says that the rose “Frankie” was named after Frank. It is reported as having been “Bred by Mr. and Mrs. Frank Hastings (United States, 2001)”. Bob suspects that Lila did the naming as Frank was modest and unlikely to name a rose after himself. At one time, Frank cared for as many as 300 rose bushes in his backyard. He will be missed by our societies and his family members.



Mary Magana, September 24, 1922—August 9, 2021

We were also made aware of the passing of Mary Magana. Mary was a delightful element of the Edgars crew that managed the Flower and Garden Show of the Del Mar Fair for many years. She was very competent and a joy to work with, per Gary Bulman. Gary and his wife have fond memories of Mary and she will also be greatly missed and we offer our condolences to her family.

In Our Thoughts and Prayers.....

Please hold John and Barbara Lester in your prayers and healing thoughts as John navigates his way through some substantial health issues. Thankfully, several of our members heeded Barbara’s call for help with their roses. (See page 17).

Also, Sue Streeper had a cardiac procedure in August with some subsequent side effects from which she is still healing. She also is in need of our support and prayers. Recently members from the Rose Garden Corps assisted with some pruning and cleanup and spraying, including Sandy Wright and her husband, and Bob Kolb.



ARS National Convention & Rose Show
September 10-14, 2021 – Milwaukee, WI

2021 ARS NATIONAL CONVENTION & ROSE SHOW
"Cream City Roses"
September 10-14, 2021
Milwaukee, WI

Hosted by ARS Central, Illinois-Indiana, and North Central Districts

Contact: Bruce and Maggie Barr, Convention Co-Chairs

Phone: (414) 217-3087 Email: rosemorehall@gmail.com

Hotel: Pfister Hotel, Milwaukee WI

[Click here for the website.](#)

Rose Pilgrimage Cancelled

By Sue Streeper, streepersue@gmail.com

I am sorry to say that the rose pilgrimage scheduled for October 16, 2021 has been cancelled. The current news about the Delta version of Covid-19 makes it unadvisable for groups to gather in close quarters, such as the environment of a bus. I am returning checks to those who have registered for the pilgrimage. Hopefully we might be able to reschedule in spring of 2022.

Event Calendars and Web Sites

San Diego Rose Society Calendar of Events

2021

September 14, 2021: SDRS Board Meeting

September 20, 2021: SDRS Monthly Meeting in Balboa Park's Casa del Prado, room 101

October 18, 2021: SDRS Monthly Meeting in Balboa Park's Casa del Prado, room 101

(October 16, 2021 SDRS pilgrimage has been cancelled.)

Other Local and Regional Gardening Events

2021

October 23, 2021: Orange County Rose Society Rose Show; Richard Nixon Presidential Library and Museum (more details to follow)

November 13, 2021: Desert Rose Society Rose Show; Palm Desert Community Center (more details to follow)

(Note: The Santa Clarita Valley Rose Society has elected to **cancel** their 2021 Rose Show which usually occurs in November.)

San Diego Floral Association Calendar <http://www.sdfloral.org/calendar.htm>

San Diego Botanic Garden Calendar <https://www.sdbgarden.org/events.htm>

National Events

2021

September 10-14, 2021: 2021 ARS National Convention and Rose Show; Milwaukee, WI; website: <https://www.creamcityroses.org/>

Useful Websites and Links

San Diego Rose Society (www.sandiegorosesociety.com)

American Rose Society (www.rose.org)

American Rose Society Pacific Southwest District (www.pswdroses.org)

Help Me Find (roses) (www.helpmefind.com/rose)

Rose Show Results (<http://www.roseshow.com/results/>)

Process for Contacting Consulting Rosarians

By Elaine Ornelas, cornelas1949@att.net and Beth VanBoxtel, SDRS webmistress

The listing below for consulting rosarians is also listed on the San Diego Rose Society's website, including phone numbers and email addresses. Our website is a public domain and can be viewed by everyone and is intended to be that way so that the public can harvest useful information about growing roses. However the email address can be accessed by 'web crawlers' and can be used to generate spam emails and spam phone calls. Listing emails and phone numbers is not a good idea with today's data breaches. So our board has decided, at our webmistress' encouragement, to not post emails and phone numbers.

So the procedure for contacting consulting rosarians is to use a generic contact email address, listed below. Once the user accesses this email the message goes directly to the webmistress who will forward the email on to the appropriate consulting rosarian. Hopefully this will prevent any adverse conditions which might have resulting from having the emails and phone numbers posted readily.

SDRS email address: sandiegorosesociety@gmail.com

Consulting Rosarians for San Diego Rose Society

Name	Area	County Location
Christine Allan	La Jolla	W
Steve Berry	San Diego	C
Frank Brines, Master Rosarian	San Diego	E
Gary Bulman	Escondido	N
Linda Clark	La Mesa	E
Frank Hastings	El Cajon	E
Ken Huff	Escondido	N
Bob Kolb	Sunset Cliffs	W
John Lester	Tierrasanta	C
Deborah Magnuson	Clairemont	W
Carl Mahanay	Imperial Beach	S
Dona Martin, Master Rosarian	Escondido	N
Bob Martin, Master Rosarian	Escondido	N
Soledad "Rita" Morris	San Diego	C
Elaine Ornelas	Clairemont	W
Bill Ornelas	Clairemont	W
Rita Perwich	Coronado	W
Jim Price	San Diego	C
Dwyn Robbie, Master Rosarian	Del Mar	W
Robert Russell	Crest	E
Natalie Stout	Kensington	C
Sue Streeper, Master Rosarian	El Cajon	E
Ruth Tiffany, Master Rosarian	San Carlos	E
Beth Van Boxtel	Encinitas	N

List of Nurseries for Roses

Here is a list of nurseries which some of our rosarians commonly use to obtain roses.

Some of these are local and some are some distance from San Diego or are for on-line ordering only.

LOCAL:

Armstrong Garden Centers	www.armstronggarden.com
Walter Andersen	www.walterandersen.com
Kniffings	www.kniffingsnursery.com
El Plantio Nursery	www.elplantationnursery.com
Hunters	www.huntersnursery.com
Evergreen	www.evergreennursery.com
Waterwise Botanicals	www.waterwisebotanicals.com

NOT LOCAL, OR FOR ON-LINE ORDERING ONLY:

K and M Roses	www.kandmroses.com
Regan Nursery	www.regannursery.com
Wisconsin Roses	www.wiroses.com
Palatine Roses	www.palatineroses.com
Angel Gardens	www.angelsgardens.com
Laguna Hills Nursery	www.lagunahillsnursery.com
Plant Depot	www.plantdepot.com
Rogue Valley Roses	www.roguevalleyroses.com
Green Thumb	www.greenthumb.com
Cool Roses	www.coolroses.com
Otto & Sons	www.ottoandsons-nursery.com
Heirloom Roses	www.heirloomroses.com
Burlington Roses	www.burlingtonroses.com
Antique Rose Emporium	www.antiqueroseemporium.com
Roses Unlimited	www.rosesunlimitedsc.com

Photo Credits for this Issue

Page 1:-2 Photo submitted by Deborah Magnuson

Page 4-9: Photos of 'Abraham Darby', 'Ambridge Rose', 'Autumn Damask', 'Charlotte', 'Dainty Maid', 'Eglantyne', 'Golden Celebration', 'Mary Rose', 'Molineux', 'Sharifa Asma', 'Sophy's Rose', 'The Squire' by Bob Martin; photos of 'Falstaff', 'Graham Thomas;', 'Prospero', 'Teasing Georgia' by Dona Martin; photos of 'Belle Isis' and 'Stanwell Perpetual' courtesy of David Austin Roses; photos of 'Constance Spry' and 'Ma Perkins' from Wikipedia Commons

Page 9: Photo of Burling Leong from Burlington Nursery website

Page 10: Photos by Christine Allan

Page 11: Photo by Elaine Ornelas

Page 12: Photo from internet

Page 14-16: Photos by Rita Perwich

Page 16: Photo of *Horizon Roses* by Bob Martin

Page 17: Photos by Beth Van Boxtel

Pages 18-20: Photos by Rita Perwich

Page 22: Photos from San Diego Union Tribune

Rose Ramblings

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