



# Rose Lore



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Bulletin for the Mesa-East Valley Rose Society

February 2019  
Mary Van Vlack, Editor

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- Recording Secretary - Yvonne Morrison
- Corresponding Secretary - Marylou Coffman
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  - Cheryl Doan
  - Linda Ahlborn
  - Lynn Twitchell (past president)
  - James Racinowski

## MESA EAST VALLY ROSE SOCIETY FEBRUARY 2019 MEETING!

Please join us on Valentine's Day as we learn about some of the best additives we can blend with our soil to improve the health of our roses. Our own LeRoy Brady will educate us on the uses of compost, mulch and fertilizers so we will know what to do now that we have pruned and stripped the leaves off of our year old+ roses. Should be very educational, so please bring your questions and note taking supplies!

There will also be tasty refreshments and a raffle with cool prizes. Members and visitors are welcome. We'll be meeting in the Community Room in the Library at Mesa Community College, Dobson and Southern Roads.



*Kardinal, photo by Mary Van Vlack*

## PRESIDENT’S LETTER

**BY LEROY BRADY**

February is not just for lovers but a new beginning of our own love of roses for another eventful year. Pruning finished or nearly so, after the middle of the month it is time for adding beauty nutrients and conditioners to the soil. While some call them fertilizers, they provide the nutrients for all the miracles that take place with photosynthesis the basis growth, and the development of the beauty we see in our roses.

Beauty is best shared, we see this sharing of knowledge among our members at society meetings as among rosarians gathering to share experiences, new knowledge and ways of doing what's needed for the end purpose of enjoying the beauty of the roses we grow or that we see others growing. That sharing is very important to us as individuals as well as to the society.

We will be appointing a nominating committee this month to develop a slate of officers to serve the society for the next year. Being a member is wonderful and there is so much that gained by that participation. As your president, soon to be past president, I believe there is even more to be learned and gained as you serve as one of the officers of the society. The joy of serving the Mesa East Valley Rose Society whether it is a Board Member, Officer or on a Committee is fun, is rewarding and expands each one who participates. There is so much to be learned, so much to be enjoyed, so much to be gained by participation. Please think about what you would like to do in the society and let the nominating committee know. I have learned that I am not a mind reader, but when I am informed by members it makes it so much easier help and share in the success of roses.

## DAVID CHARLES HENSHAW AUSTIN

BY MARYLOU COFFMAN

The rose world has lost one of the giants of the rose industry with the death of David C. H. Austin in December.

David was an extraordinary English rose breeder and writer. He grew up in Shropshire, England. As a young man he developed a passion for growing plants, especially lupines. His emphasis was on creating new plants; then, for his 21<sup>st</sup> birthday his sister gave him a book on old garden roses and that was the beginning on his remarkable career.



*Constance Spry'*

He loved the old garden roses for their beautiful blooms, shapes and fragrances. He admired the more modern roses for their color range, continual blooming and disease resistance. His goal was to cross the old roses with the modern hybrid teas and floribundas.

The process for developing a hybrid takes nine years and many thousand seedling crosses. After many setbacks, his breakthrough came with his first rose, 'Constance Spry'. A beautiful light pink shrub, It is a cross between Belle Isis, a Gallic and Dainty Maid, a floribunda.

By 1969, he had refined his breeding process and produced several repeat flowering 'English Roses'. This was the name he gave for his ground-breaking, unique varieties that combined the old garden roses with

the more modern roses. His English roses have that form and fragrance and most of them are repeat bloomers. They range from small, compact shrubs to larger shrubs with long arching canes.

In 1983, success came with the introduction of three of his roses at the Chelsea Flower Show, including a beautiful yellow rose named for his good friend and mentor, Graham Thomas. The response from the press and the general public was overwhelming and David credited Graham Thomas with being the rose most responsible for the success of his English roses.



***Graham Thomas***

After that, he introduced over 240 rose cultivars. His roses have been named for his family and friends and other rosarians, English landmarks and his favorite writers and their characters including William Shakespeare and Geoffrey Chaucer.



***Chaucer***

Other notable roses are Tamora, Heritage, Bow Bells, Glamis Castle and Gertrude Jekyll. His English roses have that form and fragrance and most of them are repeat bloomers. They range from small, compact shrubs to larger shrubs with long arching canes.



***The Squire***



***Gertrude Jekyll***

His rose breeding endeavors have brought many awards, including the Order of the British Empire in 2007 for his service to Horticulture, the RNRS Dean Hole Award and RHS Award of Garden Merit and over 20 Gold Medals from the Chelsea Flower Show.

Through his lifetime, he produced over 240 hybrids. Among his favorites is a rose named for his daughter and Olivia Rose Austin, named for his granddaughter.

At age 93, he was still working, his goal was to produce a great crimson rose. His son and grandson will carry on hybridizing "English Roses".



***Darcy Bussell***



***Olivia Rose Austin***



***Claire Austin***



## FEBRUARY IN YOUR HOME ROSE GARDEN

By Mary Van Vlack

While the work in the rose garden in February is not as intensive as in January, there are tasks that need attention and are best accomplished now. It is not a time to move on to other things and just ignore the roses.

**Finish what you started in January.** Finish your pruning as soon as possible, and also rake and clean up cuttings, spent blooms, and other garden debris. A clean garden will have fewer problems with insects and diseases.

**Planting.** Finish planting any new bare-root roses by Valentine’s Day – that should be easy to remember. Try to plant any container roses this month as well; we want to give the newly planted roses maximum opportunity to grow a good root system before the summer heat arrives.



*Bolero*

**Spray for insects and disease.** We used to treat the bare canes and beds for the mold spores and insect eggs that remain, but with our brief winters and rapidly warming temperatures, plants leaf out quickly and it is soon time to move on to my preferred strategy of prevention and then treatment when prevention fails. Keeping a clean garden free of debris and weeds and spraying down the canes are the first line of prevention. Where it’s necessary to use chemicals, I will use one product at a time, only when I have a specific problem to address, and only spraying the parts of the plant where it will be beneficial. If I must use two separate products now, I will apply the

pesticide first and then the fungicide. Some folks who prefer organic gardening will use Neem oil or another agricultural oil for this purpose. If you decide to go this route, be very careful and read the package directions carefully. Agricultural oils must be used when the weather is cool; during times of warmer temperatures they can cause burning of the canes. Read the package directions carefully. As always, use great care in applying and storing garden chemicals. Cover yourself with long pants and a long-sleeved shirt, closed shoes, eye protection, and hat, and consider using a respirator. Your health is more important than the health of your plants.



*Bees Knees*

**Water matters.** Watering practices have had to change as our winters have grown warmer. Containers may need to be watered more frequently than in previous winters, especially if the temperatures are in the 70’s or higher. This is the ideal time to examine your watering system to be sure it is working properly, has no leaks or clogs, and is dispensing the appropriate quantity of water. You surely do have a watering system. Roses are very thirsty plants, not xeriscape or succulent plants like so many of our desert landscape favorites, and they need regular water. Some folks prefer a drip system, which is generally more thrifty with the water and less affected by evaporation. The water from drip emitters comes out slowly and generally moves straight down through the soil. It will take quite a few emitters to get the broad distribution a rose needs. Bubblers are also a good system for roses and do not result in an excessive aerosol effect, which wastes water. A spray system such as would be used on a lawn has been out of favor for roses, but many rosarians believe it actually helps reduce the occurrence of powdery mildew. It will, however, leave white mineral spots on the leaves. Our water with its high level of alkalinity and high mineral content is hard on all plumbing

parts, so check out your entire irrigation system now. Also, make sure your controller clocks are working properly.

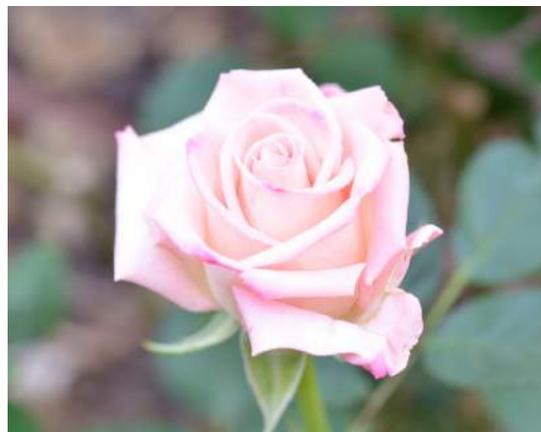
**Fertilizers.** A fertilizer with an organic nitrogen source such as Berridge's Rose Food or Mills Magic can be applied now since the organically sourced nitrogen will break down slowly, but other fertilizers should wait until the plants fully leaf out. Without foliage, the roses won't use the nitrogen, and you do risk burning the roots and newly emerging leaves; when the weather is cold the plant also makes little use of the fertilizer. I start with one application of a granular fertilizer with an organic nitrogen source now. In March I move to a more diverse and aggressive fertilization program. Getting a soil test now is also a great idea. It should indicate what is currently available to your plants and what you need to supplement. Soils vary greatly here in the valley and it is better not to make too many assumptions.



**Sparkle 'N Shine**

**Mulch, mulch, mulch.** Now is a great time to mulch your roses; while the canes are bare and the new growth has not yet begun, it is so much easier to work around the plants. Mulch is essential if your roses are to survive the summer heat. It shades the roots near the soil surface, reduces evaporation, and discourages weeds and grass invasions. Rock, gravel, volcanic cinders, and that dreadful ground rubber stuff are totally unsuitable and will have an effect opposite to what you want, pulling the heat into your plants. Suitable choices include well-rotted compost, manure from stabled horses (less weed seed), well-rotted or composted chicken or cow manure, or ground or shredded bark. The application should be at least three inches thick. Some folks love to put coffee grounds around their plants. This can be beneficial, but it tends to compact, so apply no more than a ½ inch

layer and then top off with three inches of regular mulch. Or use worm castings under the mulch for greater benefit. Mycorrhizae — which contributes to drought tolerance, enhanced nutrient availability, and increased plant performance - can be added now beneath your mulch.



**Show Stopper**

**Extras.** This is also an ideal time to apply what I call the Mike Jepson treatment. Essentially it involves making four small-diameter holes about a foot deep around the drip line of each plant. Then you pour into the holes triple super phosphate (1/4 cup per plant divided between the holes) and wettable sulfur (1/4 cup per plant, again divided). Those holes can be topped off with compost or manure. This treatment is ideal for established rose bushes that may no longer be as vigorous as you would like. It has saved several plants from the shovel in my garden, and Olympiad just loves it. The phosphate may not be needed every year, but the sulfur is. Many gardeners also apply a drench of Merit dissolved in water and divided into the four holes, a systemic treatment for aphids and possibly thrips. You can actually apply the Merit this way three or four times a year. Other options are to apply a liquid plant stimulant such as SuperThrive (following the directions on the container) or alfalfa tea.

**Pay attention to your roses.** Even when you believe your work is done, continue to pay attention to your roses as they begin to grow again. Walk through your rose garden several times a week. You may see blind shoots or dead canes that you missed and still need to remove. You may see early signs of insect or disease issues that would benefit from early attention. And you will have the pleasure of watching them rest and then emerge from that rest with developing buds, tiny leaves, and the vigor of new growth. Enjoy nature at work!

# IN THE GARDEN

BY MARYLOU COFFMAN

January has been a busy time in the Mesa Garden, not just for the Deadheaders, but for the college as well. In addition to pruning nine thousand roses, we have been busy planting several hundred roses.

In November, we removed several roses from the circle beds in Section One and the College removed the old flag poles. This past week, the College has replaced them with new concrete bases and new flag poles. The roses we removed have been heeled in and this weekend we will place them back in the circle beds. In Section One, we have planted several roses, True Inspiration, Bronze Star, Eternal Flame and Queen Mary II.



*Ring of Fire*

In Section Two, we have replaced several older roses including replacing many in Bed C with fifty Ring of Fire roses. This is a beautiful orange blend Hybrid Tea rose, hybridized by Chris Greenwood. This should make a brilliant display in the Spring and Summer. Also, in the section, you will find new roses from Weeks Roses, Roses by Ping Lim. David Austin and Star Roses. Look for Beverly, a nice pink hybrid tea, and Apricot Candy, Crazy Love and Twilight Zone .

In addition to these roses, we removed the 2017-2018 roses from the American Public Rose Garden Test bed and placed them through the garden. We identified six award winners in these test roses. Some are in nurseries now and others will be available next fall. One of these roses is an excellent yellow shrub rose called Lemon Fizz. It is great in our extended heat. Another is a shrub, Canyon Road, a great red.

Two others, Cole's Settlement, a white shrub and Belinda's Blush, a soft pink shrub will be on the market next year. Princess Charlene de Monaco, an apricot Hybrid Tea won the Fragrance Award.



*Princess Charlene de Monaco*

In the island area, we have planted several white roses: Bolero, a floribunda, Cole's Settlement, a shrub. True Grace, a Ping Lim floribunda and Tranquility, a David Austin Shrub. We are slowly replacing the Carefree Spirit that has been in the island area. In addition, we planted Sugar Moon, a white hybrid tea, by the flag pole.

In Section Three, we have planted several new roses: Bliss Perfuma, a soft apricot hybrid tea, Arctic Blue, a mauve floribunda, and Fiji, a wonderful, soft pink hybrid tea.



***Fiji***

We still have some roses to remove in the test beds and some left to plant, but most of the roses are pruned, transplanted or planted.

Please take the time to watch these wonderful roses grow. In fact, why not be an arm chair test judge and look over these roses throughout the year and then in the late fall, let us know what you think. Or, why not evaluate the roses you grow in your home gardens and let us know how they do, especially during the summer heat.

In our Sonoran International Trial bed, we have replaced the 2017-2018 test roses with others. The roses we removed, we planted in different sections of the garden. We have also planted three new climbers, Lady in Red, a bright red, Above All, an orange climber and Top of the World, an orange blend miniature climber.

In Section Four, we have planted a great medium yellow grandiflora, Happy Go Lucky.



***Top of the World***

*Editor's Note: And don't forget to fill out the ARS Roses In Review survey next summer.*



## **2019 MEVRS ROSE AUCTION**

**BY RYAN REGEHR**

The 2019 Mesa East Valley Rose Auction was held Saturday February 2 at Mesa Community College. The turnout for the event continues to grow with approximately 50 people in attendance. A total of 146 roses were sold in the auction and as stand-alone purchases. There were also 33 books and 9 different fertilizer/ pesticides sold as well. The average price for a rose was less than \$40 and the high price rose sold for \$65.

While at the auction those in attendance were able to enjoy refreshments that included tea and an assortment of cookies. Jay Harper from Farmer's Choice Fertilizer was there to talk about their products and supply samples. He also donated 2 containers of fertilizer to the auction.

The auction does not happen without the help of many hands. There are far too many names to properly recognize all those that supported but I want to take this time to thank them for their strong support in making for a successful auction.

The planning and discussion for the 2020 auction has already started. We strive to make improvements and enhancements each year so plan to come out next year to see what we have in store.

*Editor's Note: We especially thank Ryan who stepped up as auctioneer when Kyle was unavailable and did a terrific job. Also, we thank Cheryl who kept all the sold rose plants straight, the team of youngsters who helped her out, Lynn who chaired the tea party, and Bud who followed the money.*

## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

### JANUARY 2019

Amy McLain - Gold Canyon  
Carol Andrews – Chandler  
Jim & Michelle Sarina

### FEBRUARY 2019

Pam Shields - Mesa  
Stephen Grunig - Chandler  
Carol Hageman - Tempe

## THE TALE OF THE MISSING BUCKETS.

When our amazing volunteers were cleaning up after our rose show last fall and putting all the show properties away, they discovered that 15, yes, **fifteen** of our 5-gallon buckets have gone missing. Now we need those buckets not only for the rose show but for other purposes during the year. Some of you may have carried them home full of leftover flowers. Now we can try to be understanding of that, but please bring them back as soon as possible. Also, if you have any clean 5-gallon buckets that held pool chemicals or paint or whatever, please consider donating them to us. You can bring buckets to the January meeting or call Bud Morrison at 602-390-7919 to make other arrangements to get them to us.



# REVITALIZE THE ROSE GARDEN!

BY STEVE SHEARD

A very big thank you to everyone who participated in our third "Revitalize The Rose Garden" event. It was truly a great event. Bethany Freeland from the City of Mesa advertised it across their network asking for volunteers, we had 144 signed in.

Leilani Nissan brought her National Junior Honor Society students from Poston Junior High. This group were fantastic, taking on the moving of all the cuttings to the dumpsters. Leilani said she would be back next year.

Other comments we received:

I am coming back.

It was a great deal of fun and I learned a lot.

I loved this.

Thank you for making us feel welcomed and appreciated.

Justin Regehr was terrific. Lynn and Cheryl had a group of "newbies" so they asked Justin to help. He got right in there and soon had them following his careful instructions, a born leader.



# Calendar

Thurs Feb 14	February Meeting	Community Room, Mesa Community College Library	LeRoy Brady
March 14	March Meeting	Community Room, Mesa Community College Library	LeRoy Brady
March 31	CR School and Seminar	LaMesa, CA	Tom Clooney
Sat April 6	Rose Society of Glendale Rose Show	Sahuaro Ranch Park, Glendale AZ	
April 11	April Meeting	Community Room, Mesa Community College Library	LeRoy Brady
Sat April 13	Rose Society of Tucson Rose Show	Tucson, AZ	Diane Pavlovich
Sat Apr 20	Phoenix Rose Society Rose Show	Valley Garden Center, Phoenix	Gerry Mahoney
April 26-28	PSWD Annual Convention	Arcadia, CA	Chris Greenwood
May 4-5	San Diego RRS Rose Show	Ronald Regan Community Center, El Cajon, CA	Linda Clark
May 18-19	RS of Albuquerque Rose Show		Janet Dooley

## MEVRS members who are ARS Consulting Rosarians and ARS Master (indicated by \*) Consulting Rosarians

\*Helen Baird  
 \*LeRoy Brady  
 Kyle Burnis  
 Phyllis Burgess- Jiacalone  
 \*Marylou Coffman  
 Jane Diliberto  
 Cheryl Doan  
 \*Phyllis Henslin  
 \*Mike Jepsen  
 Bud Morrison

Yvonne Morrison  
 Jeremy Poll  
 James Racinowski  
 Ryan Regehr  
 \*Steve Sheard  
 Jimmy Tribby  
 Jeanette Lynn Twitchel  
 Mary Van Vlack

# JOIN THE ARS!

## MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS

- **5 issues of *American Rose* magazine, \$40 value.** The only magazine devoted exclusively to roses and rose culture, these bi-monthly, 84-page issues feature informative articles and beautiful color photography for beginners and experienced rose growers alike.
- **1 issue of *American Rose Annual*, \$15 value.** The November/December issue of *American Rose* features 128 pages of the latest in rose research, growing techniques and tips and more, from writers across the country and abroad.
- ***The Handbook for Selecting Roses.*** Every year, rosarians from across the country participate in rating the newest roses. From those thousands of reports, we tabulate the ratings and publish the results in this guide.
- **Free or reduced garden admissions, a \$25 value after just 3 uses.** With the ARS Reciprocal Garden Admission program, members enjoy free or reduced admission to and discounts at hundreds of gardens, conservatories, and arboreta nationwide.
- **Free online access to five quarterly bulletins, a \$45 value.** Previously available by subscription only, the *Mini/Miniflora Bulletin*, *Old Garden Rose & Shrub Journal*, *Singularly Beautiful Roses*, *Rose Arranger's Bulletin*, and *Rose Exhibitors' Forum* are all now available online at no cost to all ARS members.
- **Discounts of up to 30% at merchant partners.** The ARS Member Benefit Partner program offers discounts at various merchants with new partners being added continuously.
- **Free advice from Consulting Rosarians.** The ARS Consulting Rosarians program connects members with expert rosarians that provide free assistance with your rose questions.



### MEMBER BENEFIT PARTNERS

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

### YES! PLEASE BEGIN MY MEMBERSHIP IMMEDIATELY!

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

\*Joint Member's Name \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ \*E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Local Society Affiliation: \_\_\_\_\_

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Card#: \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date: \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_ V-Code: \_\_\_\_\_

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

\*Joint membership is an individual and one associate residing in the same household. Associates enjoy all the member benefits of ARS but do not receive *American Rose*.

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