



The Ventura Rose

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VCRS Meets at: 5100 Adolfo Rd, Camarillo

Visit our Website at:
www.venturarose.org

This Month's Meeting Presentation

Ventura County Rose Society

The Feature Presentation for April will be

The Members of the Ventura County Rose Society

“SHARE” ‘n Tell!

Friends and Members bring their own roses from their own gardens and share garden successes and secrets.

Thursday, April 28, 2011

Doors open: 6:30 p.m.

Featured Presentation: 7:30 p.m.

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Volume 18, Issue 3
Ventura County Rose Society
www.venturarose.org

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*The April Program:
Share 'n Tell
Presentation by: You*

The April 28, 2011 VCRS Program will star the members of the Ventura County Rose Society, ably assisted and reinforced by the Consulting Rosarians of the Society. Usually, this kind of program, wherein members of the society bring their own roses from their own gardens, is labeled: Show 'n Tell; however, we changed the title slightly in order to stress the cooperative aspects of the program, namely, sharing information about roses that do well in our gardens and encouraging others to grow them.

The only expertise needed to participate is knowledge of the following three things about the roses you bring:



*You can share a bloom of Betty's White...
Photo credit: Jim Delahanty;*

Name

Actually, we are a bit elastic on this one. If you don't know the name of a favorite rose, bring it anyway and perhaps one of the Consulting Rosarians will know or be able to figure out the name of your rose. It is only essential if someone wants to buy the rose from a commercial vendor. Otherwise, the name is helpful in finding out information about the rose from such sources as www.helpmefind.com/roses. (See the article by Jim Delahanty in the May/June *American Rose* entitled: The Name of the Rose.)

Provenance

Where did you get it? From a now defunct nursery? From a friend? Is it a pass-along plant? Where can envious neighbors get one or two or more? Will you share cuttings? Even better, will you root plants for VCRS members who request it? Will you let people who are really good at rooting cuttings take home your entry? (Keep in mind that patented roses may not legally be asexually reproduced.) How good are you at rooting cuttings? (There are several articles on the VCRS website (www.venturarose.org) on how to root cuttings with at least a dozen techniques indicated.)



*...or a spray.
Photo credit: Jim DElahanty*

Performance

The basic information about growing your roses in Southern California. Is it a vigorous plant or does it need coddling? Does it have high disease resistance or spend most of its time in a botanical infirmary? Does it mildew? Does it rust? Does it just die back and declare it has the heebie-jeebies? Is it a low maintenance plant? Is it generous with bloom or only produce one perfect bloom a year? What about you? Do you spray with organic remedies or petrochemical ones or not at all? Do you fertilize regularly or when the mood strikes and is on it a Thursday in a month with an R in its name? Do you weed or just call them companion plants? Do you prune like Gregg Lowery (minimally) or the 'whackers (great roses from little nubs grow)? What is your microclimate? Top of the hill or bottom of the glen? Any information that would help

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another rose grower to decide to grow your favorite rose should be shared.

Miscellany

How many roses to bring? Three is a nice number, but no one will quibble if you show up with more. Who can participate? Anyone at all—members, friends of members, strangers off the street, Consulting Rosarians, newbies—anyone but members of infamous cartels. Containers: anything from wine bottles to jelly glasses. Will some people interrupt you? Absolutely—but only to share more information and to give you a chance to take a breath. The sharing begins at 7:30 p.m.

Come strut your stuff! ■

The Auction: March 12, 2011



*Jim Delahanty, Rose Auction Chair, opens the 11th VCRS Rose Auction on March 12, 2011.
Photo credit: Ken Osterberg*

Barbara Morse: To every one of the hardworking rose lovers: Thank you so very much for another great auction. I am so proud to be working with people who care about the organization, our VCRS, our friends and roses. You did a fine job of planning, and executing the auction. I enjoyed all the food. It was abundant and beautifully presented.

Thanks. The amazing sale of the fixed roses blew me away. Paddy and all are to be commended. And Jim's strong efforts as well as all the others to put out the auction list and handle email sales always gets us off to a running start. Thanks. I do love to keep the auction lists. Wasn't it great to get the support from the South Coast Rose Society, Bob and Donna Martin and all the other rose breeders who came? Amazing how few it took to get the ball rolling and the bids climbing. The big buyers and big checks will carry us thru the year and more. To them I say, many thanks and good luck with all the roses. What a special treat to have Ingrid among us again! I wish her all the best on the sale of her house and the final move to Oregon. Such a wonderful story of a dream in the making. Thanks Ingrid. Now back to our own roses and the dreams we have each Spring for roses in abundance.

Holly Hagy: ...the auction was lots of fun and very well organized! vcrs and jim and everyone did a GREAT job! i was so impressed by the whole venture. i got outbid on some of the roses i wanted but did get a couple....i am already excited for the next one. thanks to everyone for the hard work and donations.

Janet Sklar: The VCRS did a fabulous job - The event looked so effortless - yet it was so much work and cooperation! The food was fabulous and so plentiful - set up so beautifully - it was amazing. The members and guests bought so many fixed price roses that by 10:00 am there were only less than 25 left out of 114. Latecomers had little choices - one person said, "Next time I will preempt!" Thank you Jim and Jane for a great catalog - it was so beautiful to view and for getting all those roses together for the auction. You both did an outstanding job - I am sure you were exhausted. We are all looking forward to seeing our new roses bloom and grow! Thank you again for all your work and dedication

Kim Rupert: (VCRS) ...pulled it off again! It was a very nice day and a fun event. Kerin enjoyed the heck out of it and wants to know

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how many Cl Burgundy Iceberg she should propagate. She wrote it was a very fun, enjoyable and relaxed day.

Melissa Paul: Thanks everyone for putting on such an enjoyable event! I asked my neighbor Laureen if she'd like to come with me, and between us we bought 17 roses. ;) Lucky we brought my van!

Kerin Tyrell: Boy what a nice day, and as someone who's run more than a few volunteer events - well organized and ON TIME!!! You can tell you've done it a time or two! Cudo's to all who brought the refreshments, they were wonderful. Got several beauties, maybe next year I can contribute to the auction. Thanks for a lovely day!

Jane Delahanty: Those of us who do things like the Silent Auction and Make an Offer tables are never quite sure what attractions will draw the most interest. So, we end up with combinations of something old, something new, something donated or something handcrafted. Nell August, Barbara Morse and I all have different "sales" tales to tell from this auction. My favorite sale was to a woman with her dog standing outside the fence at the Stagecoach Inn. She spotted a plant stake topped with a pink pottery heart covered with roses sitting on the Make an Offer table and we made a sale through the fence. The best Silent Auction story is about our newest member and the second "Paddy" amongst us who joined VCRS on the day of the auction. She was the winning bidder on an Old Garden Rose puzzle from the Huntington gift shop. It was wonderful to let her know she had won. After much discussion (and a lot of laughter) with a bunch of us about why the 'sticks' in small pots were worth what bidders were offering, she went home with her own 'stick' (the yellow banksia) to see what it would turn into. We did warn her it could turn into a monster plant.

Arden Holst: The weather was picture perfect, parking was ample and the setting beautiful for our auction. The arrangement of the tables and chairs on the lawn area was both attractive and convenient. The food tent being close to

seating was handy for a quick snack between bidding for roses and buying at the sales tables. What a food table it was too! Heard many compliments. With things less spread out I noticed more groups of attendees visiting and socializing, making it a festive atmosphere.

Bob Martin was great in the way he brought his personal experience to his auctioneering and the microphone made it easy to follow what he said. Listening to him was part of the fun.

The only complaint I heard later was that the podium was situated in front of the entrance to the museum. Not a terrible thing because it didn't block the entrance, but we need to remember that if we do this again. The museum folks were very pleased that some of those attending the auction stayed to tour the museum.



*Jane Delahanty, Barbara Morse, Bella Hermesen
& Nell August at the auction, March 12, 2011.
Photo credit: Ted Hermesen*

Connie Estes: I always enjoy our auctions because I meet new friends and at the same time acquire new friends (plants) for my garden!----as a suggestion I think we should still have our regular monthly meeting because so few of our members attend the auction.

Earl Holst: The auction event was held at a lovely site on a wonderful day. The program was fun and interesting with much to learn from the master rose auctioneer, Bob Martin, and the superb catalog. The volunteer workers did a superb job in helping to make the auction a

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success. The refreshments were outstanding and perfectly located.

Barbara Osterberg: Oh my goodness, working in the auction is an emotional experience. It started with accepting the roses earlier in the year, transplanting the seedlings and watching them survive in the wind, the hot sun and the rain. At the moment of transplant, my attachment to the roses grew, not unlike the growing love for an infant. When they bloomed, I became the proud parent of a successful bloomer. Needless to say, buying back the roses at the auction, was a requirement. I never realized that it was so much fun spending someone else's money. Being my first time as proxy bidder, I was so nervous, knowing that if someone took the trouble to put in a bid, they really wanted that rose and I wanted them to win it. I held my card extra high, forcing winning thoughts through my arm and into the card to win....it didn't always work. But, when it did, I felt like a winner. I spent a fortune at the auction. When the auction was over, I felt drained. I no longer had my seedlings, and all those roses I bought went somewhere else. What to do? I went home and squished those pesky aphids with a vengeance.

Alice Smith: This was my first auction and as an observer/volunteer I felt it was well organized, had good participation and an outstanding variety of roses. The hospitality and delicious food was all inclusive of breakfast, lunch and snacks. Paddy and Jane's copies of the fixed and auction roses were indispensable. The attached picture on each fixed price rose helped sell itself and attributed to the fast sale. Now for a few suggestions to make it even better in the future. The public needs to be made aware that we were open for fixed sales at 8:30. People arriving for the auction at 10:00 were disappointed to see a large majority of the plants already sold. In order to have better control over the fixed sales, I would prefer to collect the money at the time of sale in the fixed sale booth, instead of sending them to the auction cashier at the end of the day. The auction bidders need shade like the portable

cover over the food! We were losing people after lunch because of the intense heat.

Bill Donaldson: I feel that although raising funds for the VCRS is a must, we are in a day of the Internet. Those same offerings could be sold at a profit without all the membership labor and overhead. Granted, the mailing of plants will still require a lot of labor and logistics. This should be passed around to members to help.

I would much rather write a check for \$100 and stay home in the garden, than attend another auction.

Jim Delahanty: The auction was the apex of a year and a half's work in securing, storing and accumulating roses. Thanks to the generosity of many donors, especially Cliff Orent, Burling Rose Nursery, Nor-East Miniatures, Vintage Gardens, Gene Waering, and Paul Zimmerman, the collection was one of the most varied and interesting in the ten year history of the auction. The final amount of moneys raised will be in the neighborhood of \$4,800.00. Special thanks go to Bob Martin, Jr., auctioneer extraordinaire, as well as all of the people who worked the fixed price tables, the silent auction tables, the food tables, and the cashiering in and out. About forty roses were sold online. And the final roses will be distributed sometime at the end of this month.

- **Linda Bizzelle** once again won the 'naming rights' auction. And she gets the last word: The auction was a wonderful event and I am delighted with all of my purchases. Thank you to *all* of you for all of the work.■

The Rose Garden in April

Watering

April is the great unknown with regard to rain. Some Aprils are wet enough to cancel Dodger games; others are bone dry. The current weather forecasts promise some rain in April

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this year, but not very much. However, **Dan Bifano (Santa Barbara)** avers that he has not watered this season because of the recent rainfalls, but allows that there has been incidental watering as a result of liquid feeding of the roses with fish and other 'teas.' As Dan and **Bud Jones (Santa Barbara)** point out in their Rose Checklist for the Santa Barbara newsletter, the imperative here is 'water periodically and water deep.' If you live in a water restricted area, this imperative is illegal. In the parts of Southern California served by the Los Angeles Metropolitan Water District, the regulations provide that overhead watering may only occur for 8 minute stretches no more than three times a week. This can be circumvented somewhat by hand watering your rose bushes; however, hand watering rose bushes can be labor intensive once the number of rose bushes starts to exceed single digits. While the Governor has proclaimed that the drought in California is officially over, the mechanics of bureaucratic regulation may take until the onset of the next drought to reflect such climatic or political changes.

Pruning

While it is true that pruning can take place at any time in a mild climate area, the major thrust of rejuvenating pruning should have taken place earlier. Pruning at this time should be directed to 'clean up' of blind shoots, meandering branches and the like. Do engage in 'deadheading' in order to neaten the garden and to encourage rebloom. Regular deadheading has a couple of major advantages: it not only acts as minor housekeeping, it also has the benefit of routine inspection of the roses to detect problems at an earlier rather than pandemic stage of trouble.

Pests

Aphids start to become a problem this month. Check out **Barbara Osterberg's (Oxnard)** narrative of personal warfare with aphids later in this newsletter. Also be aware that ants will herd the aphids and protect them to the extent of carrying them to safety. Ant bait is a good idea or you can use cinnamon to disorient them. **Powdery Mildew** is always a spring

threat in Ventura County, so consider either organic or petrochemical sprays as a prophylactic. One safe but effective method, according to Jack Christensen in the *Los Angeles Daily News*, is a nonfat milk spray. Mix one part nonfat skim milk with nine parts of water and spray the foliage and flower buds every couple of weeks. **Jack Lin (Thousand Oaks)** has used this mixture and reports it to be effective if somewhat sour scented.



*A Ladybug in Janet Sklar's garden.
Photo credit: Linda Zhang;*

Exultate Jubile!

April is one of the two best months of the year for the rose in Southern California. And VCRS gardeners are exulting in their roses and gardens. **Dawn-Marie Johnson in Moorpark** notes that the results of her fertilizing with a nitrogen rich product are excellent. She observes that her March auction plants are either producing blooms or displaying new foliage. And she is eager for Otto & Sons Rose Days because she still needs two new Hybrid Tea roses to replace a couple of underachievers she shovel pruned in January. **Janet Sklar of Northridge** concludes that her garden 'exploded' with color thanks to ample rain, a sizable application of organic fertilizer at the end of February and recent summer-like heat. She has bumper crops of both beneficial insects such as lady bugs and lace wings as well as beneficial companion plantings such as scabiosa, sweet peas, feverfew, larkspur, and all kinds of iris. And her orange trees are blooming to add to the aroma. She says it is 'glorious to work and be in the garden!'

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"Malton-NOT!" thriving in the crepe myrtle tree.
Photo Credit: Jim Delahanty

Jim Delahanty in **Sherman Oaks** sprayed with Serenade for fungi and Spinosad for insects in anticipation of the rose shows to take place starting the middle of the month and continuing through June. And the un-named climbing rose now called "Malton-Not!" is providing pink color and panache to the newly leafing out crepe myrtle that will not bloom until later in Spring. This has absolutely delighted the resident hummingbirds and itinerant neighbors.

It is April in the rose garden. Everybody shout for joy.■

The Aphids & Me: Round 7

Barbara Osterberg

At the recent VCRS auction I bought several new roses, took them home and prepared to take on a new experiment. The roses are so beautiful and healthy that I wanted to keep them that way instead of allowing those pesky, and leaf sucking, nasty aphids to take over. I decided to do my own organic test on the right side of my rose garden and try several home-made formulas designed to get rid of aphids in that area. There had to be some way to get rid of them besides using commercially made insecticides, hose end sprayers, push sprayers and big old back packs to carry solution, However, I've read that aphids are

really hard to get rid of and I didn't start this experiment confidently knowing that I would find a safe solution to rid my garden of aphids. I felt about as confident as winning the lottery and I don't buy lottery tickets.

While ambling through my rose garden, I noticed there were an abundance of those sap sucking, bud eating monstrosities nibbling on my tender rose buds. "Squash'em", I thought and proceeded to do just that, with my gloveless fingers, moving from rose to rose. Yuck. Contemplating my next move, I remembered the hint to use a clean soft paint brush to "paint" the aphids off the rose buds? Someone somewhere said that once the aphids were brushed off they wouldn't come back.



Aphids
Photo credit:
Baldo Villegas

They came back.

On another day I tried scrubbing each bud with a slow stream of water. This worked, but again the aphids came back and it was a lot of time consuming work. I don't know if these were the same critters or a whole new set of free riding critters. More specifically, I found aphids on different rose buds than the ones I had washed off. Were they the same or different? I don't know.

I seem to recall a mixture of dish detergent and water in a spray bottle that was supposed to do away with aphids. I've tried this before, but with a daintiness that belies my determination of today to **get rid of those bugs!** A little squirt here and there didn't do the trick. This time, I washed each bud thoroughly, using a 2 quart industrial type spray bottle, containing a double squirt of detergent and with water. So desperate was I to get rid of the aphids, I threw caution to the wind and sprayed heavily, deep down in the sepals of the bud and along the base of the flower. I made sure the spray

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drained as far as it could into the flower, because those little beasties scamper about and hide.

The next day the aphids were all dried up, black and falling off the bush. Well now, I said to myself, spraying them is more work, but if this works, it's worth it. I don't mind getting soapy fingers. I ran into the house and started to tell my husband about my success. As I started to explain, he said, "I noticed that there weren't many aphids on the buds today, must be because I squashed them as I was doing a garden check yesterday". My balloon deflated. He didn't know I was running a test spot in the garden. Needless to say the rain and my husband's perchance to rid the garden of aphids did away with my test plan that week. Aphids: 1; Me: 0. I'll try again though.

Meanwhile, I researched some of my old garden books looking for additional solutions to the aphid problem.

From Jerry Baker – *Old Time Gardening Wisdom*

Fels-Naptha Soap Solution

To make solution, Grandma Putt (Ethel Grace Puttnam, Jerry baker's Grandma) shaved a ¼ bar of Fels-Naptha or Octagon soap into 1 quart of boiling water. When the soap was completely dissolved, she added ¼ cup liquid dish soap to emulsify the mixture and keep it from gelling. She let the mixture cook, and then stored it in a suitable container until she needed it.

Knock'Em Dead Insect Spray

This is potent brew, says Grandma Putt. Mix all together in 1 quart of warm water. Let sit overnight, then mist spray your plants.

- 6 cloves garlic (chopped fine),
- 1 small onion (chopped fine)
- 1 Tbsp. of cayenne pepper
- 1 Tbsp. of dish soap

From a dog-eared book called *Rodale's Chemical Free yard and Garden:*

Controls for Aphids:

Wash Aphids from plants with a strong spray of water or encourage native predators and parasites; spray with homemade garlic or tomato leaf sprays. Release aphid midges, lacewings, lady beetles (in greenhouse only); spray with alcohol, citrus oil, insecticidal soap, or neem oil; dust with boric acid on soil around plants to control ants; as a last resort, spray with pyrethrins.

*Note: Pyrethrin is a botanical insecticide you can make if you grow the daily-like flowers *Chrysanthemum cinerariaefolium*. This spray packs a potent poison. Pour boiling water over the petals and spray as soon as the concoction cools.*

From Rhonda Massingham Hart – *Dirt Cheap Gardening :*

Soap Spray is one of the best combatants against aphids and other soft-bodied pests. Mix about 3 tablespoons of mild laundry soap, such as Ivory Snow, with 1 gallon of water and spray on both sides of leaves.

Sticky Traps

I'm always on the lookout for those yellow sticky cards that attract insects and they seem to work well among my strawberries, but I never had enough to put among the roses. Here is the homemade version: Take a 10" x 10" piece of Masonite or other sturdy material that is colored school bus yellow and cover it with something sticky such as tangle-Trap, Tacktrap, Stickem, Glycerin, motor oil, or petroleum jelly. Hang the traps so that they are adjacent to, but not above, susceptible plants, or attach them to stakes. Clean and recoat them periodically.

I didn't realize that I have so many books with homemade solutions to destroy insects. Commercial sprays are expensive and not very good for the environment. My quest for the destruction of the aphid is not over. Just need to keep the husband at bay and the rains at a distance. Tomorrow is another day...

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Editor's Note: It is important to remember that homemade remedies are toxic and potentially dangerous to pets, children, and humans. So exercise caution when utilizing any insecticide, organic, homemade, or store-bought. JD ■

Meeting Our Consulting Rosarians: Hetty Shurtleff

Paddy Ruzella



*Hetty Shurtleff with two of her arrangements.
Photo credit: Paddy Ruzella*

Although Hetty Shurtleff is one of our newer Consulting Rosarians she was President of the Santa Barbara Rose Society from 2008 through 2010 and has been doing the work of a CR for many years. However, it wasn't until the VCRS Consulting Rosarian School in 2009 that Hetty signed up because she wanted to hear the speakers but then decided she might just as well also take the test and become certified.

Hetty is a fierce competitor and tackles everything she does with such energy and enthusiasm that rest of us look like veritable slouches! It all began for her in Indonesia

where her Dutch parents met and married while both were employed there as school teachers. Unfortunately her father died while she was quite young but her mother eventually remarried and had a brother and sister for Hetty to complete the little family. As long as she can remember she says that she has loved plants; plants of all sorts, not just roses which came along later in her life. Although her mother did not like gardening, there were always flowers in the house--a custom in Dutch homes. So although Hetty does not know where her love of plants originated, she does know that it has been a lifelong romance. She says she cannot pass a garden store without coming home with a couple of new plants for the garden! Today her garden which is primarily roses is also packed with all sorts of succulents, small trees, euphorbias, geraniums, flax, grasses, vines and much more, in a seemingly endless variety of colors, textures, and shapes.

In 1949 Hetty was in the Netherlands with her family on a furlough when Indonesia became a nation independent of the Dutch. Since her stepfather had been employed by the Dutch government and was one who had been responsible for "rounding up revolutionaries," it was decided that the family would not return to Indonesia. So they remained in Holland and all the children grew up there. After she married and had already produced a daughter, Hetty and her small family migrated to the United States where a friend told them jobs were easier to find than in Holland. They settled in the San Gabriel Valley but they had lived by the ocean while in Holland and hankered to find their way back to that climate. Eventually they moved to Ventura and their family grew to include five children, four girls and one boy right in the middle. With the exception of her youngest daughter, all Hetty's children, 12 grandchildren, and one great grandchild remain in the Ventura area. The youngest daughter met and married a landscaper from Australia while she was in Hawaii and they now reside in Melbourne. Hetty has visited twice and loves the country she says.

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True to her basic character it was when she came to Ventura that Hetty says "since having 5 kids left me with lots of time on my hands, I went back to college." She is the type of person who is always on the move, can't sit still even to watch television unless she has some work in her hands. So it is not surprising that while living in Ventura and raising her family she went back to school. She took classes at Ventura College and eventually obtained her Bachelor's Degree in Biology from Cal State Northridge in 1974. She became a Clinical Laboratory Scientist, interned at what is now Ventura County Regional Center, and has worked in the labs at Santa Paula Hospital, Pleasant Valley Hospital in Camarillo, and Cottage Hospital in Santa Barbara. Her life during her years of learning and training saw her moving back and forth to Santa Barbara several times before she finally settled in Santa Barbara because the lab at Cottage Hospital offered the most diverse and interesting work in her chosen field.

She was living in Ventura at the time of her graduation and her parents had given her some money as a graduation present. With part of this she treated herself to her first rose – Medallion. "I love yellow roses," she says "and thought that was what I was buying". Of course, she quickly found out that particular rose is actually more of a peachy apricot than pure yellow but it didn't matter, Hetty had now become a rosarian. A neighbor showed her how to start new plants from cuttings and Hetty was on her way. In fact, as she moved from that first house to a second in Ventura and then to two subsequent homes in Santa Barbara she took slips of the original "Medallion" with her and so has left a trail of roses behind her!

She became a member of the Ventura Rose Society after meeting Jeri and Clay Jennings. Later she joined the Santa Barbara Rose Society at the urgings of her co-workers and so is one of several of our CR's who is a regular member of both Societies. Always curious, Hetty was also persuaded to join Las Floralias, an invitation-only group of flower arrangers in Santa Barbara. Now she had found her true love. Perhaps it is this aspect of rose growing

that is at the core of Hetty's love of roses. As usual, however, she has carried it to the nth degree. Part of exhibiting rose arrangements is the container in which the arrangement is made. Not satisfied with what she could find readily available, particularly for the Japanese Ikebana form of flower arranging, Hetty decided to make her own containers. Fortunately there is a very fine Adult Education system in Santa Barbara and so Hetty took up pottery. Recently retired from her work at Cottage Hospital she is presently enrolled in a flower arranging class, a pottery class and also a basket weaving class. It is this basket weaving that keeps her hands busy as she finally sits at the end of the day and watches television with her husband, David.

In both her Santa Barbara houses, Hetty arrived to find the garden of one full of succulents and the other all ice plant. In both cases she pulled it all out and started rose gardens. She is particularly fond of the "cabbage roses" from the Old Garden Rose category but found they would not grow well in her area. By trial and error, however, she developed a fine rose garden at her first Santa Barbara house and then transferred most of it to her present home. As the ice plant came out of that garden the neighbors across the street gasped with horror. What was she doing? Hetty knew exactly what she was doing and for the past two years she has opened her garden to any who wish to visit on a couple of weekends in spring time when it is a riot of color. As she says, "I took most of my roses from the first SB garden and planted them here. It is one reason that this garden looks older than the 6 ½ years we have lived here." The front garden is on a steep slope which is traversed on a switchback path, climbing up to the middle of the lot and the house. The house has a lovely view not only of the garden below but out over the city of Santa Barbara to the ocean in the distance. Climbing further up the driveway and past the house you come to the back garden which is more traditional in that it has a large lawn with a smaller bank behind it to the top of the lot. More roses here, of course.

(Continued on page 12)

As you might expect from this dynamo of a naturalized United States' citizen, Hetty carries clippers and containers in both her every day car and her "beat up old pickup" and both vehicles automatically stop for interesting looking plants. So dotted around her garden are "starts" from all sorts of domesticated and wild plants that will eventually become part of her arrangements if they "take". As Hetty says, "It's fun to start things from cuttings, and success gets you hooked." We at VCRS have had the benefit of Hetty's many experiments as she taught us her methods of propagation on more than one occasion. This year she has given up her duties as President of the SB Rose Society, "three years is enough" she says, but she has undertaken the position of Program Coordinator, so we can assume she will not have much time for sitting and weaving yet. Hetty says of the Rose Societies and other groups to which she belongs, "We come for the roses and stay for the camaraderie." We are so very happy, Hetty, to be amongst those groups to which you belong!■

acumen and rose creation process to a young person willing to carry the craft forward to the next generation. Evelyn is not looking to "sell" the business per se; rather she wants to ensure that the craft lives on. You might be able to persuade her to sell her vital equipment if you wanted it. And she has tons



Example of Evelyn Tidwell's craft.
Photo credit: Paddy Ruzella

of greenery (leaves) and containers (found at garage sales over the years) that she would like to get out of her garage. Mostly, Evelyn is searching for an enthusiastic successor who will not let her special craft fade away.

Wanted: Rose Crafters

Paddy Ruzella

Have you seen those wonderful little red roses that Evelyn Tidwell makes from apples? Yes, that's right, apples - specifically round, bright red, Rome apples. This is a craft that Evelyn created and perfected over the years following a class she took in which the instructor showed her students how to make roses from wood fibers.

Evelyn's process requires a couple of specific tools (a slicing machine and a dehydrator), a few floral supply items as well as the painstaking time to fashion thin, dyed slices of unpeeled apple into lovely little red roses. (Evelyn also tried yellow roses but the red dye is the one that holds up best she says.) She took her creations to local craft shows and boutiques and developed a little side business that has given her much pleasure and some extra income for many years now. Now she has decided it is time to share her business

If you, or someone you know, might be interested in keeping this craft alive by making the roses, selling the roses, and teaching others how to make them, call Evelyn. She will spend time with you going over all the details of what is basically a simple process that just needs some of your time (a good evening job while watching TV!) Evelyn can be reached at 805-483-2519.■

Desiderata

One Perfect Rose

*A single flow'r he sent me, since we met.
All tenderly his messenger he chose;
Deep-hearted, pure, with scented dew still
wet --
One perfect rose.*

*I knew the language of the floweret:
'My fragile leaves,' it said, 'his heart enclose'.
Love long has taken for his amulet
One perfect rose.*

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*Why is it no one ever sent me yet
One perfect limousine, do you suppose?
Ah no, it's always just my luck to get
One perfect rose.*

*Dorothy Parker
(1893-1967)*

Birthdays:

April 13: Burling Leong
April 15, 1452: Leonardo da Vinci
April 16: Kim Rupert
April 28, 1926: Harper Lee

**From Elda Bielanski & Karen Fitzpatrick:
Descanso Gardens Tour**

The members of the VCRS Tram Tour of Descanso Gardens will gather at the entrance to Descanso Gardens on the 21st of April at 10:30 a.m. Elda & Karen will contact you prior to that date to encourage car pooling and to make arrangements for that convenience. The tour is expected to take about an hour and the International Rosarium should be at its peak for viewing; April and October are regarded at the two best rose months at Descanso Gardens. Be sure to wear comfortable shoes and to bring a hat in case of hot weather. There are still a few places left if you have not yet signed up. Send a check for \$10.00 to Earl Holst, P.O.Box 102, Agoura Hills, Ca. 91376 in order to reserve a seat on the tour. The event is open to members of the Ventura County Rose Society and their friends.

From Jim Delahanty: Rose Show Season!

April marks the beginning of the rose show season in Southern California. Two excellent rose shows debut this month. The San Fernando Valley Rose Society Rose Show will take place on April 16, 2011 at Sepulveda Garden Center, 17733 Magnolia Blvd, Encino, California. This show is one of the smaller shows with 43 horticultural classes and 9 arrangement classes. Exhibitors may enter their roses from 6:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. The public is admitted from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. For more information, contact Janet Sklar (janetsklar@sbcglobal.net). For a show schedule, go to the District website: www.pacificsouthwest.org. The Pacific Rose Society Rose Show is both one of the largest as well as one of the oldest in Southern California. This is their 74th Annual Rose Show, to be held at the Los Angeles Arboretum, 301

North Baldwin Avenue, Arcadia, Ca.—directly across from the Santa Anita Race Track. The show has 78 horticultural classes, 19 arrangements classes and 15 photography classes. Exhibitors may enter their roses from 6:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. The public may view the exhibits from 1:00 p.m. Saturday as well as on Sunday afternoon. Contact Evelyn Reed (evelynreed1@gmail.com) for more information.

**Correction: In the March Monthly reminder, the recipe for 'Westlake Slaw' should read:
¼ medium onion, chopped, red or white.**

From Dawn-Marie Johnson: CR tasks

April 30 and May 1st. - **Otto and Sons Rose Days.** - VCRS Information and Membership Table. All VCRS members are urged to bring Roses from their gardens to add to our VCRS Members Bouquet and to create an educational display of rose varieties that grow well in our gardens. Please provide a label or card with the name of the rose as people will ask and the cards are very helpful.

Table Schedule:

Saturday 4/30: Morning

9 - 12 Dawn-Marie Johnson will set up and staff the table until noon.

*9 - 12 * Need volunteers.*

Saturday 4/30: Afternoon

12 - 3 or 4 Earl & Arden Holst

Sunday 5/01: Morning

9 - 12 Connie Estes

9 - 12 Need Volunteers

Sunday 5/01: Afternoon

12-3 or 4 Connie Estes

12-3 or 4 Need volunteers to work with Connie and to tear down the VCRS table.

From Jim Delahanty: Membership & Dues
Members of the Board have emailed those who have not responded to the call for paying 2011 dues. We have sent snail mail reminders with self-addressed envelopes to the 24 people who have not renewed as of this writing. If you know of someone who has inadvertently not renewed, tell them to send a check for \$20 to Earl Holst, P.O. Box 102, Agoura Hills, CA. 91376. Non-renewers will be carried on the monthly reminder email list until the end of the year in the interests of comity, but will no longer receive the newsletter as of this mailing.

Ventura County Rose Society

c/o Paddy Ruzella
1405 Church Street
Ventura, CA 93001

Upcoming Events...

**This Month's VCRS Meeting is Thursday, April 28th
Featuring: The Members of the
Ventura County Rose Society
"SHARE" 'n Tell!**

Upcoming VCRS Monthly Meetings

All events are at the
Ventura County Educational Conference Center,
5100 Adolfo Rd, Camarillo, CA

All VCRS events start at 7:30 p.m. unless otherwise noted.

April 28, 2011
VCRS members
"SHARE" 'n Tell

May 26, 2011
Dr. Jim Downer
*What's Bugging
Your Garden?*

June 28, 2011
Ron Whitehurst
*Bees and Other Garden
Pollinators*

September 22, 2011
Jill Morganelli
*The Arboretum Rose
Garden Conversion to Organics*

October 27, 2011
Jeri Jennings
Rose Photography Workshop

November 17, 2011
Tom Carruth
New Roses of 2011 & Beyond

December, 2011
Holiday Party
TBA

April 16, 2011
SFVRS Rose Show
Sepulveda Gardens
16633 Magnolia Blvd
Encino, CA
Contact: Janet Sklar
janetsklar@sbcglobal.net

April 21, 2011
Thursday, 10:30 a.m.
Descanso Garden Tour
Cost: \$10.00
Descanso Gardens
La Cañada, CA
Contacts:
Elda Bielanski
elda@lavidaloca.us
Karen Fitzpatrick
fitzlines@aol.com

April 23 & 24, 2011
Pacific Rose Show
Los Angeles Arboretum
301 North Baldwin Avenue
Arcadia, CA
Contact: Evelyn Reed
EvelynReed1@gmail.com