



# The Ventura Rose

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February 2011



Volume 18, Issue 2

VCRS Meets at: 5100 Adolfo Rd, Camarillo

Visit our Website at:  
[www.venturarose.org](http://www.venturarose.org)

## *This Month's Meeting Presentation*

### **Ventura County Rose Society**

The Feature Presentation for February will be

**Elda Bielanski**

**Master Gardener and Rose Enthusiast**

Speaking on:

**Romancing the Rose: The Mystique  
and Mystery of the Rose**

**Thursday, February 24, 2011**

Doors open: 6:30 p.m., Rose Celebration: 7:00 p.m.

Featured Speaker Presentation: 7:30 p.m.

# The Ventura Rose

Volume 18, Issue 2  
Ventura County Rose Society  
www.venturarose.org

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## *Elda Bielanski*



*Elda Bielanski*  
Photo credit: Douglas Bielanski

Elda Bielanski has been an ardent rose gardener ever since she visited Sandy Gaal's Little Acre some fifteen years ago and became a rose addict via the David Austin roses. She is a graduate of California State University of Los Angeles with a degree in Nursing. She worked in ICU and cardiology for some 25 years and afterwards in pharmaceuticals prior to retirement.

Both Elda and her husband, Douglas, a retired Captain with United Air Lines, enjoy gardening and roses and he re-designed their garden into one suitable for roses. They reconstituted the back garden into three levels, creating rose beds with pathways and retaining walls, a sixty foot pergola to support climbing walls, and vistas of roses at every turn in the pathways.

Elda deepened her understanding of gardening by becoming a Master Gardener some three years ago to complement her purchase of books, reading rose society magazines, and absorbing information from Clair Martin and other mentors. Her other interests, in addition to traveling to visit her three daughters and five grandchildren, are reflected in her

memberships in the Westlake Village Garden Club, the Assistance League of Conejo Valley, the New West Symphony League, and the Conejo Orchid Society.

This presentation results from an invitation to speak at a philanthropic group about roses. The program presents rose history with a romantic orientation as to the intrigue, mystery and allure that forms the ambience of the rose; the subjects include the rose as inspiration for poets and artists as well as for gardeners and the impact of the rose on historical events. ■

## *The Ventura County Rose Society Rare Rose Auction: Number 11*

The Ventura County Rose Society will sponsor an Auction of Rare and Unusual Roses on March 12, 2011 at the Stagecoach Inn Museum in Newbury Park, Ca. The live auction starts at 10:00 a.m. Early bird shoppers can start purchasing the fixed sales price roses about 8:30 a.m. or whenever the tables are set up. The Stagecoach Inn Museum is located at 51 Ventu Park Rd, CA (one mile south of the 101 Freeway). Bob Martin, Jr. a Life Member of the VCRS, and winner of the 2001 Pacific Southwest District Honor Medal, the 2007 Pacific Southwest District Consulting Rosarian Medal and the 2008 Pacific Southwest District Arrangements Judge Medal, brings to his role of auctioneer his broad knowledge and understanding of the range of rose possibilities. Members of the attending group, such as Kim Rupert, will be asked to offer their opinions on the various roses and their virtues and potentialities.

Many of the roses offered are out of commerce, such as 'Fair Molly,' a polyantha from a decade ago; others are "found" roses—those that have survived untended for eons in abandoned farmhouses, gothic cemeteries, or as sidewalk distractions. "Grandmother's Hat,"

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*"Benny Lopez," a 'found' rose.  
Photo credit: Ingrid Wapelhorst*

for example, was discovered by a passerby on a drive through Altadena nearly forty years ago and is still without an AEN. The rose is thought to be a Hybrid Perpetual, variously identified as 'Cornet Rose,' or 'Mrs. R. G. Sharman-Crawford,' or 'Molly Sharman-Crawford' as well as acquiring such study names as 'Altadena Drive Pink HP' 'Barbara Worl,' and 'Grandma's Hat.' (The ARS has ruled that the rose must be identified as 'Grandmother's Hat' when entered in "Found" rose Classes.) But all of the discussion over names obscures the fact that the rose is a magnificent survivor and produces hundreds of fragrant pink roses over the course of a year without mildew and rust—the scourges of HPs in Ventura County. In fact, the rose is so tough that it was planted on its side at the Stagecoach Inn by a rosecidal student and yet within a year was soaring toward the sky to fulfill its mission of perfuming and beautifying the world. Another 'found' rose 'Benny Lopez' has roots in Santa Barbara where it produced lavishly scented blooms for half a century without anyone noticing. And one of the stars of the auction will be the 'Peggy Martin' rose, a pink thornless rambler that not only survived Hurricane Katrina, it also survived being underwater for a couple of weeks.

There are also a half dozen roses from the hybridizing efforts of Rudolph Geschwind

(Geschwindt) who was employed variously in the Austria, Hungary, and Czechoslovakia; he is now regarded as one of the most innovative and experimental rose breeders of the past hundred years, utilizing as he did such species roses as *r. setigera*, *r. alpine*, and other unusual species in his crosses. Hard to get Hybrid Multifloras and Hybrid Setigeras as 'Futtacker Schlingrose,' 'Forstmeister Heim,' Josephine Ritter,' and 'Geschsindt's Schonste' will be on display.



*'Forstmeister Heim,' a Rudolph Geschwind rare rose.  
Photo credit: Anne Belovich*

100 of the roses will be offered at auction. Another hundred will be provided for sale at set prices. These will include many miniature roses otherwise unavailable such as 'Dr. K.C. Chan,' a Dee Bennett rose that honored her acupuncturist. Or 'Baby Cecile Brunner,' a Ralph Moore miniature contribution to the amazing range of forms for one of the most popular roses of the last century in California. And 'the Bamboo Rose', a species rose never seen in the wild and rumored to have appeared in the courtyard garden of a mysterious gentleman in New York City.

The Auction activities will also include a silent auction of rose memorabilia and giftware under the supervision of Jane Delahanty, who has been collecting items for this project over the last year. Items will range in value from hand-painted wine bottles to serve as candlesticks to gift baskets of rose items. And, possibly, some last minute rose contributions will clear a path to the silent auction table to show off their wares.

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Dawn-Marie Johnson promises to provide sustenance by way of refreshments and noshes over the course of the auction proceedings. These items will be supported by a donation basket located obtrusively nearby.



*Naming Rights Rose 2011.  
Photo credit: Paul Barden*

The event will culminate in the auctioning of the naming rights to a Paul Barden Shrub rose. The rose produces lush yellow blooms on a four foot tall shrub that tends to be rather taller than wide. Blooms are generally one to a stem, but large canes can bear clusters. Individual blooms are about 3" wide, extremely double, sometimes displaying a center "pip" like the Damask 'Mme. Hardy'. The bloom color is a consistent clear medium yellow with a deeper yellow center, gradually fading to a butter hue. Repeat is quite good, and in fact it is rarely without some bloom. The fragrance tends to be light and in the tea family. Its parentage is listed as 'Joycie' X 'Abraham Darby.'

The bidding for the naming rights to the rose and 20 bushes of it starts at \$250 dollars. Naming rights include the ability to name it after yourself, your best friend, a revered family member, or your pet flea. The International Registration Authority for Roses will not accept names of public or private persons without a letter of authorization, names that have more than ten syllables, or 30 characters, or names already used or trademarked. The breeder reserves the right to reject any rose name that offends his sensibilities. (Think again about that flea.)

Most of the roses being offered for either auction or sale will fall within the one to three gallon size. No roses in larger than seven gallons will be offered. Bring a wagon or a dolly to transport your successful purchases and winning bids. Online bidding will be accepted for both near and far non-attenders. The details of that procedure will be disclosed when the Rose Auction Catalog is published at the end of February.

**Reserve the Date: March 12, 2011.■**

## *The Garden in February*

*Jim Delahanty*



*The bare bones of the Dawn-Marie Johnson February garden.  
Photo credit: Dawn-Marie Johnson*

The garden in February is a time of catching up, waiting and plotting, in the best sense of that much abused word.

**Pruning:** The traditional goal for finishing pruning in Southern California is Valentine's Days, notes Jeri Jennings in Camarillo. And if you haven't finished pruning or even if you have, you still need to consider what to do with the leaves that are potential carriers of disease for the future. Many rosarians like Janet Sklar in Northridge have them picked up and discarded in curbside containers. Others like Katherine Whitman in Toluca Lake count on their gardeners and a steady breeze to deposit them in North Hollywood. Jim Delahanty in Sherman Oaks continues pruning until it is done, relying on the advice of Le Grice who

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said that you could prune anytime in a warm climate.

**Feeding:** The conventional wisdom is to refrain from pruning until there is sufficient foliage to absorb the benefits of the nutrients. Jeri Jennings advises feeding in February with a balanced (14-14-14, 20-20-20) fertilizer. However, she prefers to add a nice dose of fresh or composted horse manure. In fact, many plantsmen regard horse manure as both beneficial and curative with respect to some rose diseases. Dawn-Marie Johnson in Moorpark intends to top dress all of her rose beds because after five years it is both time to feed the soil and discourage the weeds. Jim Delahanty uses Miracle Gro All-purpose fertilizer when new growth is discernible on the roses and is careful to water the roses both before and after the application of the fertilizer. Janet Sklar waits until the last week in February to put down fertilizer; she creates a personal mix using 100 lbs. of Alfalfa pellets (without additives) and mixes in an equal amount of cottonseed, fish meal, ironite, sulfur, and kelp. She scatters one or two cups of the mix around each rose. Island Seed and Feed in Santa Barbara offers a similar mixture for sale. Jack Christensen in his weekly column in the L.A. Daily News suggests that one add either a 3-inch layer of organic mulch or establish a "living mulch" of companion plants like daylilies, ground covers, low growing herbs or other suitable plants in order to conserve moisture and beautify the garden. Jim Delahanty uses cocoa hulls for a mulch, but cautions that it should not be used by those who have dogs residing or visiting inasmuch as the chocolate content can be fatal to pets.

**Relocating Roses:** Dawn-Marie Johnson intends to move a few roses that need more sun than the Jacaranda tree is willing to give them. She took notes last spring on which roses were not doing well and might need replanting with lots of compost or the creation of a new rose bed. February is a good time to check and see how your garden is maturing. As trees grow in size and beauty, they begin to block sunlight to roses and once healthy roses can become straggly and desperate in their

search for the six hours of sunlight they require each day. The maturing garden means revisiting the conditions under which roses are actually growing.

**Container Gardening:** One of the irritating things about gardening is that products vary in quality not only between brands, but even within the same brand over time. A decade ago, the quality potting soil was that offered by Supersoil; it justified its extra cost. Sometime in the mid-decade, it declined in quality and Mel Hulse, the general manager of the San Jose Heritage Rose Garden, switched to the OSH house brand. A recent study confirms that the perceived decline in the OSH house brand is not a figment of a gardener's imagination and the new champion potting soil is Miracle Gro Moisture Control; it is twice as effective and useful as its nearest competitor. Not far behind is Miracle Gro Potting Soil. So "the old order changeth, yielding place to the new;" Tennyson must have been a gardener. ■

## *Rose.*

*Plyde Phillip Wachsberger, Theodore James, and Harry Karamabou.*

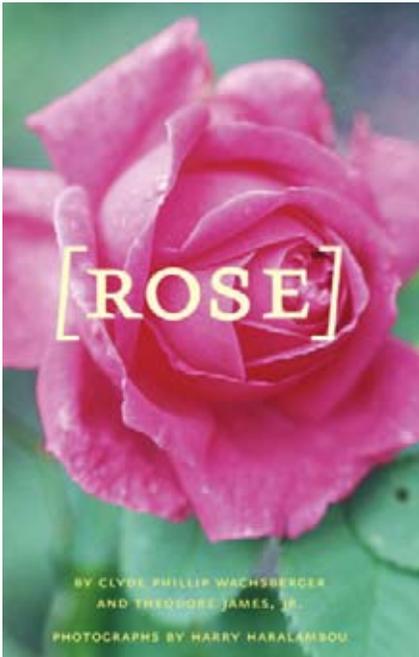
*Reviewed by Barbara Osterberg*

I felt a special kinship with the authors of this book, as they shared their knowledge of the same roses that I have in my garden. We often speak of roses in terms of beauty, fragrance, and memories, but can we also speak of the history, species, planting, caring, cutting and even personality of roses? The authors do a fine job of elaborating on just those subjects.

Besides a minor history of roses, this book discusses the art of selecting roses. Those new to the world of rose gardening can sometimes get hung up on categories, cultivars and foreign names. It can become a daunting task just to decide on a rose that can be bought from a big box store. This book should ease your fears with regard to rose selection.

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Choose your rose with the attributes that you find most appealing. Consider fragrance (my # 1 attribute), growth habit or perhaps color. (As a side note, the catalog that precedes the



*Photo credit: Abrams' Publishers*

Rose Auction in March will delight your senses with color, perceived fragrance and imagination. Don't miss it.)

The American Rose Society has three basic classifications of roses; Species Roses, Old Garden Roses and Modern Roses. Is it important to know the difference between them

and commit to memory? No. However, it may help to have a basic understanding of the type of rose you are considering.

Species Roses are strong and vigorous. They were "born" in the wild. They are generally disease free in their home climates and they usually flower profusely in early summer. They originated about 35 million years ago (that's before the I Love Lucy Show), and they are best suited for large properties.

Remember 'Lady Banks?' It's a species rose. Mine was a yellow rose that bloomed like there was no tomorrow. When the whole bush was in bloom, it was a fantastic sight. It was a King Kong of a climber. I finally had to take it out, however, because it provided shade to all the other roses.

Old Garden Roses (OGRs) are sometimes known as Old Fashioned Roses. I think of these roses when I look at paintings by Claude Monet, Francisco Goya or Jean Chardin. The roses seem to be all petals, tightly packed into an invisible cup, perfectly position around the artists' subject.

Many of the OGRs bloom only once a season with an abundance flowers. The petals can cluster tightly into gorgeous swirls. Old Garden Roses are known for their fragrance, fragrance and more fragrance. Today they are also called Antique Roses, or Heritage Roses. Classifications include Gallica, Alba, Centifolia, Damask, Bourbon, Moss, China, Tea Rose, and climbing Rose categories like Hybrid Multiflora or Gigantea. There has been a renewed interest in OGRs and I've seen them listed more frequently in catalogues, with titillating descriptions and photographs.

One of the first Modern Roses was 'La France', a Hybrid Tea Rose introduced in 1867 at the beginning of the era of Modern roses. Hybridizers were interested in producing roses that bloomed all summer long. The list of desirable qualities grew to include disease resistance, superior hardiness, ground-covering habit, and ease of maintenance.

From this point forward, the rose world begins to sound like the story of "The Wizard of Oz" without the Munchkins. The Bush, Shrub, Ground Cover, and Climbing Roses were developed, again divided into cluster-flowered (Floribundas) and Polyanthas. Then came along the Hybrid Musk, Hybrid Rugosa and English roses, and lions and tigers and bears...

These groups were then divided again, based on the nature of their blooms; a climber might be a Climbing Tea or a cluster-flowered Climber or a Climbing Miniature. Then we have the Patio Roses, Landscape Roses, Tree Roses, Pillar Roses, Border Roses and Bedding Roses, Blanket Roses and Carpet Roses, oh my...

Did I learn anything from reading this book? Yes. My first rose, Mr. Lincoln is a very popular dark-red rose, velvety crimson with almost black shadings and it's fragrant; I knew some of that, but I didn't know it was introduced in 1945. It's older than I am. It taught me to live with the cycles of rose disease, leaf drop, and its heady fragrance.

I learned that I have a Polyantha, which I covet at the rose auctions. It's Climbing Cecile

Brunner, also known as the Sweetheart Rose. It turned out to be King Kong's cousin and took out my trellis on a windy day. If I would have known more about the history of these roses, perhaps I wouldn't have bought them. Then again, I would have missed out on Mr. Lincoln's fragrance and everything he taught me about roses, and I would have missed out on Cecile Brunner's people-stopping, world class blooming cycles. I guess I wouldn't have changed a thing.

My garden started with just a single rose. From there I have progressed to no grass, no dirt and no space. Roses are my passion and this book both describes and explains my passion. ■

**Editor's note:** *The book was published by Abrams Publishing: New York, 2004. It is available new for \$19.95. Used copies may be purchased on the Internet for prices (including shipping) ranging from \$4.00 to \$37.93. It is available for loan from the VCRS Library. (contact: Nell August abaug@verizon.net.)*

## *Meeting Our Consulting Rosarians: Janet Sklar*

### *Paddy Ruzella*

Janet Sklar lives in the midst of the bustling San Fernando Valley but tucked away in a pretty enclave of lovely homes with roses everywhere. The area is quiet and serene and belies the fact that there are busy streets just a block away with all the traffic customarily generated by a large university - Cal State Northridge. It wasn't always like that however.

She started life in New York, first in an apartment with her parents and younger brother, then in a small house where there was a tiny garden. Eventually the family moved to West Hollywood where Janet's mother still lives.

Janet says that she was always interested in gardening and she was the family member who dug and planted and fiddled with plants in that small New York garden. When she married and moved into a home of her own in Granada Hills

there were five roses already planted in that garden. This was Janet's introduction to the Queen of Flowers and she had no idea how to tend them. Fortunately a neighbor taught her how to work with the roses and Janet was hooked.



*'Climbing Pinkie'*  
Photo credit: Janet Sklar

The Sklar home today sits across the center of a pie shaped lot. Looking at the front of the house from the street you see close to a dozen fruit trees on the left hand side of the circular drive way; a white picket fence along the front between the entrance and exit of the driveway, and a large bed with garden art, and roses on the right hand side of the driveway. There is a lush green lawn that fills the road-side of the driveway circle and a beautiful bed of roses between the lawn and the picket fence. Add more roses in beds to the left of the front door, a small bed of roses to the right of the front door and a lovely "Climbing Pinkie" arching up and along a horizontal trellis over the garage door. The back garden consists of a large entertaining patio across the back of the house with a pathway leading to the very back of the lot with many climbing roses as well as shrubs, hybrid teas and Noisettes in between.

It is interesting that Janet does absolutely no spraying in her garden. Instead she has many "beneficial" companion plants among the roses and, indeed, you see very little bare soil in the garden. She keeps a layer of mulch on the ground, uses a nine-month timed release Osmacote fertilizer as well as a blend of organic alfalfa, cotton and fish meals, kelp and sulfur. She also has a good drip irrigation



Janet Sklar in her garden.  
Photo credit: Paddy Ruzella

system that makes life easier when it comes to watering and weed control. Los Angeles permits two water meters on the property so the water used in the garden does not contribute to the sewer bill charges – a definite plus!

Today she is as busy as ever. Her time is spent enjoying and helping out with her 9 grandchildren, keeping an eye on her 94 year old mother, doing the books for her husband's container rental business, indulging her passion for roses, taking a tennis lesson at least once a week to help keep in shape, interacting with a book club, and keeping up with the Master Gardeners' program that serves Santa Barbara and Ventura.

She joined the San Fernando Valley Rose Society in 1991 and is currently its Membership Chairperson. Although she does not generally enter Rose Shows she does participate in the SFVRS annual Rose Show. For the last two years Janet has won the San Fernando Valley Rose Founders Trophy for Two Hybrid Tea Roses and it sits proudly on her dining room table. She said she is not going to enter again this year so "someone else can have the chance to win the cup." Given the variety and beauty of Janet's healthy roses, that is a generous gesture indeed! Janet became a Consulting Rosarian several years ago when the SFVRS offered a school and then renewed her credential at the school offered by VCRS a couple of years ago.

Janet is a very organized person and has thought out her garden to take advantage of its spaces and shapes to create a lovely whole. Her husband, Harvey, does not garden but he is very supportive of his wife's efforts and various anniversary and birthday presents have contributed to the garden in the form of ornamental arches and statuary, and, most notably, a pretty but sturdy well stocked garden shed plus metal tabled potting area in the side yard.

In her working days Janet began as a teacher of 5<sup>th</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> graders but after a couple of years returned to UCLA to get her Masters in Library Science with emphasis on being a children's school librarian. She became the teacher in charge of her school's library, taking classes on Saturdays given by the School District "for pay to keep the library open after school. I fell in love with the job and went on to become a professional." Her ensuing career took her from the elementary school into a junior high school then a high school and eventually into the position of supervising the library system for 244 schools in the San Fernando Valley. She wound up her career by training 460 library aides in downtown Los Angeles. She loved her job and thought it "the best." She retired mainly because her husband said having the alarm go off at 5:30 a.m. was disturbing him and he preferred to have her company!

The Sklars own a condo at the beach in Oxnard where roses will not grow and enjoy weekends there as time and circumstances permit. Janet heard of the Ventura County Rose Society through her contacts at the Faulkner Farm, liked our web page and began attending meetings. She says it was at the VCRS that she became aware of and fell in love with Old Garden Roses and now has them scattered throughout her garden. On most fourth Thursdays of the month when in Oxnard she typically attends a Master Gardeners' class in Ventura or Santa Barbara in the morning, does a shift at the Help Line in Ventura in the afternoon, and attends the VCRS meeting in Camarillo in the evening. This is just a typical day for Janet. Because of her known interest in roses the Master Gardener Board asked her to create and choose roses for a Demonstration Garden at the Faulkner Farm. Although others generally maintain that garden now, Janet gives a pruning demonstration there once a

year as part of the Farm's ongoing program and she works in the garden when she is able. Janet sits on the Board of Directors of the Ventura County Rose Society, currently does a wonderful job of Publicity Chairperson, and has been awarded Atta Girl status for her efforts on behalf of the organization.

One of her happiest achievements, however, was to plant some roses in her mother's garden in West Hollywood three years ago. This fine lady has a caregiver nowadays but still loves to sit on her front porch and, after all these years, she finally appreciates her daughter's gardening endeavors. Appropriately on Mothers' Day last year Janet gave her mother a fragrant red "Lasting Love" rose. This has become a favorite for everyone who walks down the street as they stop to smell the roses. It is Janet's mother's delight "to sit and watch the roses" as well as the people. She says it gives her great pleasure to watch them grow, change, attract birds and insects and impart all those wonderful, peaceful moments that only roses can bring. Way to go Janet! ■

## *Desiderata...*

### **Lovers Rose**

By Frederick Peterson (1859-1938)

*The sweetest flower that blows,  
I give you as we part,  
For You it is a rose,  
For me it is my heart.*

### **Birthday Greetings:**

February 12<sup>th</sup>—Abraham Lincoln (201)  
February 17<sup>th</sup>—Bella Hermsen  
February 22<sup>nd</sup>—George Washington (278)  
February 23<sup>rd</sup>—Roz Thebaud  
February 29<sup>th</sup>—Larry Thebaud  
(a mere teenager!)

### **Arrangements Workshop— Saturday March 26<sup>th</sup>:**

**The Fair Friends of Roses** is sponsoring the 14<sup>th</sup> Annual Arrangement Workshop at the Floriculture Building at the Ventura County Fairgrounds (10 West Harbor Blvd, Ventura, CA)



*The Fair Friends of Roses. Photo credit :Kitty Belendez.*

on Saturday, March 26, 2011. The workshop will run from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. and the cost is \$20.00. This annual event has been seminal in the renaissance of arrangements participation in rose shows through the Pacific Southwest District of the American Rose Society.

Marylou Coffman and Helen Baird will conduct the workshop on the topic of Oriental Style Arrangements. The Fair Friends of Roses, led by Sue Diller and Barbara Schneider, will provide the flowers, the greens, the coffee, the Danish, and the lunch. The leaders of this workshop represent a veritable pantheon of arrangements mavens. Marylou Coffman won Pacific Southwest Outstanding Arrangements Judges award in 2006; Barbara Schneider and Sue Diller had won that ward in 2004; and Marylou Coffman capped her achievements with the Pacific Southwest District Silver Honor Medal in 2009, as did Sue Diller and Barbara Schneider in 2010.

Participants are urged to appear with warm clothes, sharpened clippers, and a selection of low and high/tall containers for arrangements displays. In order to reserve a place at the workshop, send a check for \$20.00 before March 15, 2011 to Barbara Schneider, 253 McKee St, Ventura, CA. 93001. More information can be obtained by calling either Barbara or Sue at 805.648.7322.

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## **Descanso Gardens Tour: April 21, 2011: Reserve your place**

The tram tour of the 81 acres of Descanso Gardens will take place on April 21, 2011. The tour group will gather at the entrance to the Gardens at 10:30 a.m. The cost of the tour is \$10.00, payable in advance to the VCRS. To make reservations for the tour, contact Elda Bielanski at elda@lavidaloca.us. Or send a check for the amount to Earl Holst, P.O.Box 102, Agoura Hills, CA 91376. The tour is open to members and friends of the Ventura County Rose Society. Places should be reserved by the March meeting before the offer is extended to members of other rose societies.

## **DUES!**

If you have not renewed your membership in the Ventura County Rose Society, please send \$20.00 to Earl Holst, Treasurer, P.O.Box 102, Agoura Hills, CA 91376. Society dues are based on the calendar year, so that dues become payable the first day of each new year. The Bylaws provide for a grace period extending into the 3<sup>rd</sup> month of the year, but given that the Rose Auction is on the 12<sup>th</sup>, this is effectively the last renewal notice that will be extended. And, of course, the last newsletter to be sent, barring effective action on your part. Please don't make us hurt you.

## **Moisturn-5:**



*The Moisturn-5 treated tree on January 6, 2011  
Photo by Scott Freeman*

Last year a new product was sent to the VCRS to test. Hetty Shurtleff tested the product as the president of the Santa Barbara Rose Society and used it successfully to treat plants negatively affected by a heat spell. Jim

Delahanty used the product to protect his roses from insects and fungi over a significant period of time last spring. And Brenda Freeman tested the product on her Christmas tree. Brenda and Scott purchased the tree on December 4<sup>th</sup> and, after a day or so, sprayed the tree with Moisturn-5. The product forms a coating around the plant in order to protect it from insects and diseases. It was originally developed to help the Christmas tree trade to maintain the freshness of the product over the long sojourn from woods to residences. The picture above shows the tree on January 6, 2011 prior to being discarded. Brenda swears that she will use the product every year from now on. She simply describes it as "AMAZING!" In her case the product sprayed on white, but dried clear. She sprayed the tree twice, being careful to spray the undersides of the branches as well as the more easily attained areas. The tree absorbed water right up to the holiday itself.

In my case, the product was very effective, with the reservation that if the product is not constantly in motion to maintain the viscosity, it is possible that there will be visible residue which is disqualifying in a rose show and distracting to purists. I should point out that if you are sufficiently aged, palsy alone will maintain the agitation necessary.

For more information, please go to [www.gsihorticultural.com](http://www.gsihorticultural.com). The product is not inexpensive. For small gardens, I would recommend the quart RTU at \$15.95. For larger gardens: the gallon concentrate at \$66.25. The ratio of product to water is: one pint of concentrate to one gallon of water. Hetty Shurtleff allows as how she had no problems with residue using the ready-to-use container.

**Please note that there will be no March newsletter. The next *Ventura Rose* will appear in April. The March Rose Auction subs for the March meeting and the Rose Auction Catalog subs for the newsletter.**

**Thank you.**

**Jim Delahanty, Editor, *Ventura Rose*.**

# *Ventura County Rose Society*

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

## *Upcoming Events...*

**This Month's VCRS Meeting is Thursday, February 24th**  
**Featuring: Elda Bielanski**  
***Romancing the Rose:***  
***The Mystique and Mystery of the Rose***

### *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.

#### **February 24, 2011**

Elda Bielanski  
*Romancing the Rose*

#### **March 12, 2011**

*VCRS Rare Rose Auction*  
Stagecoach Inn  
51 South Ventu Park Rd  
Newbury Park  
10:00 a.m.

#### **April 28, 2011**

VCRS members  
*Show '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*

#### **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*

#### **March 26, 2011**

#### **Saturday**

**10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.**

Arrangements Workshop

Ventura County Fairgrounds

Contact: Barbara Schneider

*Kleach@seasidepark.org*