



The Ventura Rose

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January 2011



Volume 18, Issue 1

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 January will be

Robert Funai

**Volunteer Coordinator,
A.C. Postel Memorial Rose Garden**

Speaking on:

“Buds, Birds & Beaches: Springtime in New Zealand”

Thursday, January 27, 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 1
Ventura County Rose Society
www.venturarose.org

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*Buds, Birds & Beaches:
Springtime in
New Zealand*



*Robert Funai at Lake Wanaka in New Zealand.
Photo credit: Robert Funai*

In Spring of 2009, Robert A. Funai fulfilled a long time dream of visiting New Zealand. He drove nearly 5000 miles over a seven week period to visit sites on both major islands. Some tours were planned to include famous Botanical garden venues, while others occurred serendipitously. The grandeur of mountains vied with the attraction of beaches in this intensive inspection of the glories of the country. Ten rose gardens featuring both modern and Old Garden Roses are included in this presentation of the flora, fauna, and natural beauty of this rugged and beautiful country in the Southern Hemisphere.

Robert Funai is the Volunteer Coordinator of the A.C. Postel Memorial Rose Garden of Santa Barbara; as such he works with the officials of the Santa Barbara Parks and Recreations officials as well as with over 60 volunteers. He was recognized for his contributions to the cultural values of the city in June of 2009. The A.C. Postel Garden contains over 1600 roses with over 240 different varieties representing both modern and Old Garden Roses. The garden is located opposite the Santa Barbara Mission.



*Tasman Bay Nursery in Motueka, New Zealand.
Photo credit: Robert Funai*

Robert Funai was born in Oxnard and matriculated at the University of California at Santa Barbara in plant ecology. After two decades in the printing industry, he returned to school for a degree in Horticulture. He currently holds a position as a Restoration Ecologist with Growing Solutions, an environmental restoration and clean-up corporation, involving Habitat Restoration and plant propagation. In addition to his coordinating duties at the A.C. Postel Garden, he also manages several private rose gardens. ■

*The Garden in January:
Assorted Thoughts and
Techniques....*

Compiled by Jim Delahanty

Pruning

January is prime time for pruning roses in the Southland. If you were unable to attend the OGR pruning demonstration by **Jeri Jennings** and **Jim Delahanty** at the Stagecoach Inn Memorial Garden on January 15, you might want to review the article about pruning observations on the VCRS website. For advice on pruning OGRs, contact Jeri at heritageroses@gmail.com; for advice on pruning modern roses contact **Earl Holst** at ebholst@adelphia.net. For a tip on sealing

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canes after pruning, check out **Janet Sklar's** recommendation for an easier process on page 10. Last year **Gregg Lowery** of Vintage Gardens in Sebastopol delivered an excellent lecture on pruning in which he suggested that most of it was unnecessary. **Barbara Osterberg** tried the no-prune regimen but has abandoned it because she did not like the look of her garden ("a mess") in the interim stage. She added that her attitude might be different if she had an estate where the roses could expand to their desired size rather than be constrained to the contours of her garden. Barbara's observation reinforces Gregg's point that pruning has to do with concerns for space in the garden, not the health and vigor of the rose. **Dan Bifano** indicates that his pruning will be complete before the Great Rosarian program on the 22nd of January. Jeri Jennings reports that she and Clay do very little pruning this time of the year because most of their roses are Chinas, Teas, and Noisettes and do not go dormant and because they wait for the rains to end so as to avoid problems with fungi and over-wintering spores. While they do clean up dead wood, they do not shorten healthy canes on their roses. Janet Sklar hoped to have her pruning managed by hiring someone to do it; however, she found the process of teaching someone to prune more time consuming than productive. So she returned to pruning herself while assigning a defoliating chore to the trainee. **Robert Rippetoe** in the desert just observes his rose garden in January and rarely prunes except for deadheading to encourage repeat bloom or for shaping purposes. People sometimes forget that deadheading is a form of continuous pruning repeated throughout the year. **Dawn-Marie Johnson** delays thinking about pruning until the 3rd week in January. While she used to prune one rose bed seriatim, now she prunes by rose classification and finds that the system works just as well. She likes the look of a well-pruned rose garden as the form and structure of the bare canes add another dimension to the enjoyment of the rose garden.

Spraying and Defoliating

A long standing tradition provides for spraying

pruned roses with a lime and sulfur compound or drench in order to kill spores and/or fungi that would overwinter on the canes, in the soil, or on uncollected foliage. The no-pruning regimen provides for leaving the discarded foliage to become a part of the earth again by covering the foliage with a thick coat of mulch. The mulch adds to the aesthetic appeal by covering up the fallen foliage. It is unnecessary to remove dead foliage; dangerous spores or fungi cannot exist where there is no nutrient value to be extracted. Jeri Jennings offers an observation that they do not spray because plants that reveal a predilection for rust or mildew do not stay in their yard. Their biological control is the removal of sickly plants. Dan Bifano, on the other hand, sprays climbing roses beforehand in order to encourage leaf drop and to encourage buds to swell so as to make the pruning of the climbers easier. He also sprays twice after pruning and loosens the soil around the drip line in order to facilitate March fertilizing. Janet Sklar defoliates her plants—well actually, her trainee defoliates; the defoliating testifies to the fact that Janet cannot stand the look of dying leaves on her plants in her garden. And, to some extent, the process is regulated by the amount of green bin space available for curbside pickup by the Los Angeles municipal services. Janet does not spray after pruning and uses defoliation as a means of avoiding manifestations of rust engendered by weather in spring. Dawn-Marie Johnson adds a top dressing of manure after the roses have been pruned and cleaned up.

New Roses

The renewal of a rose garden is a constant effort. Probably one of the most important lessons a novice rose grower can learn is that the rose garden is not an infirmary. With over 13,000 roses in commerce, there is no reason to waste valuable space, time and energy on roses suited for somewhere else. Janet Sklar plans to add 'Walking on Sunshine,' one of the 2011 roses from Jackson & Perkins Keith Zary; based on observations made at Exposition Park Rose Garden, it is one of the best yellow roses to appear since 'Graceland.'

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'Walking on Sunshine'
Photo credit: Jackson & Perkins

'Walking on Sunshine' will replace an unnamed rose with yellow blooms that blow too quickly. Next year 'Perfume Delight' is on the hit list by reason of infecting other plants with rust.

Jeri and Clay Jennings will continue their commitment to 'found' roses by planting "Castro-Breen Red Climber," a rose found in the San Juan Bautista State Historic Park. It is believed to 'Bloomfield Courage,' a Captain Thomas of Beverly Hills rambling rose that should provide a lush spring bloom and intermittent recurrent bloom throughout the year.



'Castro Breen Red Climber'
Photo Credit: Jeri Jennings

Garden Evaluation

If nothing else, now is a good time to evaluate the performance of your roses to see how they have fared over the course of the strange weather of 2010. Of course, such an evaluation might also be a statement about the rose grower as well. ■

The Passion for Old Garden Roses Part II

Barbara Osterberg

*(Continued from the November-
December 2010 Newsletter)*

Since I joined the rose society some years ago, I often heard the name 'Graham Thomas.' I decided to find out just who he was. I didn't have to look too hard because he is mentioned in In Search of Lost Roses many times.

First of all, Graham Thomas was one of the world's most foremost authorities on old roses.



He was known as a rose specialist; he was also known as impatient. As a nurseryman for about 40 years, he had his hands on more of Britain's landscape than most gardeners. His interests extended to more gardening; he was also an artist, adept at botanical paintings and drawings. There is a honeysuckle named after Graham

Thomas as well as the 'Graham Thomas' shrub rose that made its debut in 1983. When asked why he chose gardening as

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*Graham Thomas: Austin Rose
introduced in 1983.
Photo credit: Henry Hartley*

his vocation, he replied simply, “A love of beauty.”

So we start the second part of this review of In Search of Lost Roses to discover in its chapters why we grow roses. As I continued to read through Thomas Christopher’s book, I began to see through the eyes of the author. Graham Thomas says that every Old Garden Rose collector has taken many, if not the majority, of his finds from cemeteries. But one person, the Reverend Douglas Seidel, combined collecting with both preservation and distribution. He tried to repay his debt of rustling old garden roses by working with local garden clubs to collect specimens of every old rose he found. They were planted along the perimeter of a cemetery, as a perfumed hedge of antique roses, as an enticement for modern-day strollers and a graceful bow to tradition.

In the chapters on rose rustling in Texas, I learned that rustlers would arrive from all over Texas with only the search for old roses on their agenda. They would travel via various means, including horseback. Walking stick aficionados were not deterred by long winding ridges or dipping wetlands or tangles of holly and oak. Sometimes they would pass through little towns consisting of ruins, empty storefronts far from the main highway and then discover a low grassy hill or forgotten woods bursting with scent, color and nostalgia. Rose Rustlers were looking for survivors of the Texas climate which some claimed to be a season of six months dry and six months without rain. And then there are gully washers, though which the Hybrid Tea rose lasts no more than a season or two. Black spot, mildew, trips and mites return with the rain in October, which tempts a bush to bloom itself to death. The reasons for rustling include both the desire to save roses that might otherwise be lost to modern gardens and the need to find roses strong enough to survive hostile climates.

We’ve heard about willow water, at least I did, through one of our rose speakers. Christopher mentions that during rose rustling, the cuttings were set in willow-water for twenty-four hours. This practice was developed by Dr. Makoto Kawase of the Ohio Agricultural Research and Development Center. The reason this works is because the twigs contain a root-promoting substance call rhizocaline.

Another chapter cited a cute story about the ‘Burglar’ Rose: it was a red flowered climber that covered a fence around the chicken yard of an old family home in Louisiana. When a thief tried to force his way into the house one night, the owner chased him out at gunpoint. The fleet-footed criminal would have escaped had he not run into the rose covered fence and the rose’s thorny embrace. The thief pulled a knife on the owner, but the owner conked him on the head with a revolver and knocked him out cold. So it became the ‘Burglar’ Rose.

Napoleon’s wife, Josephine, was a horticultural enthusiast. She ordered many of her roses

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from English nurseries, despite diplomatic and political considerations. Her gardens were so respected that during the periodic wars, soldiers were ordered to leave her rose gardens intact and not to trample upon them. Her workers pollinated flowers by hand or relied on honey bees or hoped that insects would transfer pollen from one bush to another. She used some of her roses for medicinal purposes and others for perfume.

This book doesn't discuss just the history of the rose or the original breeders and collectors of roses, it uses old knowledge to apply to today's roses.

- Did you know that to pump new life into a failing rose, all one has to do is change the soil? It almost never fails. This is the advice of an ancient Greek botanist.
- Did you know that Julius Caesar popularized the wearing of rose chaplets in public mainly as a means of hiding his premature baldness?

Christopher noted that China made a crucial contribution to Western rose gardens: the gift of repeat bloom. Four roses came to Europe at the end of the 18th century and caused a revolution among our garden roses. "The Four Stud Chinas" were called that because like great stallions they have sired a long line of champions. Every new hybrid rose to appear today counts one or more of these four studs among its ancestry.

- 'Slater's Crimson China'
- 'Parson's Pink China'
- 'Hume's Blush Tea-Scented China'
- 'Parks' Yellow Tea-Scented China'

One of the most interesting chapters in this book is entitled 'Black Gardeners.' Christopher tried, unsuccessfully, to interview the black gardeners who supplied so many roses to the old rose revival. He thought that the story of these women had to be the most remarkable of the old rose revival. They guarded the roses through a time when almost no one else cared, and very many of the cultivars survived through their efforts. He had questions: Why did these



*Slater's Crimson China: one of the English studs.
Photo credit: Vintage Roseary*

women show such an appreciation of the old roses? Where had they gotten their roses and how did they propagate them and why chose the particular cultivars that they did? Did they trade them among themselves? What did they see in these flowers that they cherished when the rest of the country was rooting them out? Unfortunately, these gardeners were not anxious to share their information. He did find one old gardener that learned from his mother to put rooted cuttings under fruit jars. However, the mother declined to be interviewed.

There is so much to learn from this book. It's in our library. Check it out and read about where your roses have come from. Read the stories about old garden roses. They have much to say. Check with Nell August (anaug@verizon.net) to arrange for a loan or for the availability of the book. ■

In Search of Lost Roses.
By Thomas Christopher
(New York, Summit Books, 1989)

Editor's note: The book is also available online. www.addall.com lists some 290 copies at prices ranging from 99¢ for the paperback edition to \$86.95 for a 'perfect' copy of a First Edition.



Desiderata...

Gather Ye Roses

--Robert Louis Stevenson

Gather ye roses while ye may,
Old time is still a -flying:
A world where beauty fleets away
is no world for denying.
Come lads and lasses, fall to play
Lose no more time in sighing

The very flowers you pluck to-day
To-morrow will be dying:
And all the flowers are crying,
And all the leaves have tongues to say,-
Gather ye roses while ye may.

Descanso Trip: Elda Bielanski & Karen Fitzpatrick

The VCRS is planning a trip to Descanso Gardens on Thursday, April 21st for a guided tram tour of the facilities. We plan to meet at 10:30 a.m. just outside the entrance. The entrance fee is \$6.00; the cost of the tour is \$4.00. There is a requirement of a minimum of 25 persons and a maximum of 42. The tour is open to all VCRS members and their friends and families. However, it is necessary to sign up for the event for purposes of meeting the facilities' minimum. Either sign up at the January or February VCRS meetings or email Elda at Elda@lavidaloca.us. In either case, attach a check (or cash) for \$10.00 as the total sum must be paid by the VCRS upfront at the Visitor's Entrance. If you are reserving a place via e-mail, please send your check to Earl Holst, P.O.Box 102, Agoura Hills, CA 91376. To view the Descanso Gardens website, go to www.decansogardens.org. There are 81 acres of accessible gardens with 100,000 camellias, a six acre International Rosarium and a Lilac grove of both historical and botanical importance. There is an extended article on Descanso Gardens at www.helpmefind.com/rosettes under the Ezine for October, 2000.

(Editor's note: Elda and Karen have

assumed the duties of Garden Tour Chairs for 2011 and are off to a splendid start.)

Great Rosarians of the World:

2011: Ruth Knopf

The Huntington in San Marino will be the site for the Great Rosarians of the World award ceremony honoring Ruth Knopf for her work in conserving of old roses, especially Noisettes, on Saturday, January 22nd and Sunday, January 23rd. The actual presentation will occur on Sunday, but both days will be filled with activities ranging from Compost Bin demos to a book signing of 'The Sustainable Rose Garden,' edited by Gene Waering (with articles by two VCRS members). The two-day program costs \$50.00 per person. A recent wrinkle is the addition of an optional dinner on Saturday night and a Sunday Luncheon; those tickets are restricted to registrants and are priced at \$45 for the dinner and \$15 for the luncheon. Details can be found at www.greatrosarians.com or seek more information from Clair Martin (our November speaker) at clairgmartin@mac.com.

Dues Are Due!

VCRS Dues cover the calendar year. Thus, all dues became due on the 1st of January, 2011. If you have not yet sent in your dues, please send a check for \$20 to Earl Holst, P.O. Box 102, Agoura Hills, CA, 91376. Or you can bring cash or a check to the next meeting on January 27th, 2011. You can even pay in coins. If you paid dues after October 1, 2010, your coverage includes 2011 and you are already paid up.

Holiday Party.....Jim Delahanty

On December 16, 2010 the VCRS held its annual Holiday Party at the Ventura County Educational Conference Center. About 35 people watched the installation of officers for calendar year 2011. A large and enthusiastic response greeted the awarding of the 2010 ARS Bronze Honor Medal to Earl Holst for 'outstanding service to the VCRS.'

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Earl Holst receives his Bronze Medal from Jim Delahanty at the VCRS Holiday Party.
Photo credit: Paddy Ruzella

The recipients of the 'Attagirll!' awards were:

- Dawn-Marie Johnson for heading up the September Celebration
- Paddy Ruzella for hospitality and Celebration sales
- Cindy Mastro for raffle sales
- Jane Delahanty for Celebration and raffle sales

Each recipient received a \$50 gift certificate to Burlington Nursery.

The holiday table groaned from the collection of calories, carbs, and artery cloggers.



AARS (All American Rose Selections)

AARS dissolved itself in December 2010 after 72 years of existence. There are inchoate plans to reorganize along the lines of the German ADR which stresses disease resistance and ease of care, but the number of gardens will be downsized. (Neither Carlsbad nor Mesa Gardens is expected to be included in any future program.)

'Friends of Sequoia'



Back row (from left): Dave Bang, Jim Sproul, Carolyn Supinger, Sharon van Enoo, Jill Perry, Samantha Mooney
Middle row: Linda Burg, Judy Eitzen, Jim Delahanty, Kim Rupert, Terry Hart, Clay Jennings, Sherri Berglund, Irene Lindsey
Front row: Burling Leong, Jolene Adams, Jeri Jennings, Rosemary Sawyer, Jane Delahanty
Kneeling: Ron Sawyer, Ted Burg.

Photo credit: Irene Lindsey

The 'Friends of Sequoia' is an informal group of people who frequented the famous Sequoia Nursery and/or were friends of hybridizer Ralph Moore. The group met in Visalia on January 8th to celebrate what would have been the 104th birthday of the 'Father of Miniature Roses.' Several VCRS members were among the celebrants listed above.



Proposed VCRS Budget 2011: This proposed budget has been approved by the Board of Directors and will be put to a vote of the membership at the February meeting.

*A Little Dab
Will Do 'Ya'*

Janet Sklar

Budget Review

Income:

Dues	\$1,400.00
Bank Interest	\$32.00
Rose Auction	\$2,200.00
RoseCelebration	\$400.00
Monthly Raffles	\$450.00
Newsletter Ads	
Community Outreach	\$50.00
Misc-refreshments	\$168.00
Donations	\$120.00
Total Income	\$4,820.00

Expenses:

ARS 1-year Membership	\$70.00
ARS Insurance Policy	\$230.00
ARS Patron Program	\$100.00
Awards and Recognitions	\$160.00
Stagecoach Inn Garden	\$50.00
Installation of Officers	\$40.00
Library	\$ -
Meeting Room Rental	\$1,360.00
Hospitality	\$100.00
Programs	\$450.00
Publicity	\$ -
Postage	\$60.00
Newsletter (8 issues)	
Composition	\$1,400.00
Community Outreach	\$50.00
Rose Auction	\$500.00
RoseCelebration	\$180.00
Sunshine Chair	\$70.00
Total Expenses	\$4,820.00

When you get ready to prune your roses this year, you may wish to try something easy and useful. I heard a lecture a few years ago by one of the staff at the Huntington Library Rose Gardens who said that she put white glue on the rose canes after she cut them to protect them from cane borers. Since I had many canes with holes in them which led to die back, I decided to try this. I found it time-consuming and messy as the bottle tip dripped white glue down the sides of the canes. The following year I tried a small bristle paint brush. This took several strokes, but it was better than the drippy white glue bottles.

A few years ago, I came upon the easiest and fastest way to put white glue on canes! I bought some small inch foam brushes at Joann's or Michaels on sale for 10 cents each. I took a small margarine container or a cream cheese container with a lid and poured some of the white glue in the container. (Buy white glue at the 99cents store for cheap glue). After I pruned several bushes, I used the foam brush and just dabbed the tops of the canes with no mess or drips.

At the end of my pruning for the day I put the lid on the glue container and put the foam brush in a paper cup of water and both were ready for the next time I pruned. If the brush got hard – they are cheap enough to throw out. I have not had cane borers on my rose canes for several years. Be sure to brush on the white glue on a day or two days when rain is not expected so the glue can dry hard. ■

To Love Roses...

Jim Delahanty

Why do I love roses? The question requires a degree of introspection that is discomfiting.

My best answer at any given time involves the interplay of so many senses on one object. Loving roses trips the sensors in the nose to enjoy a range of responses from the purity of the old damask rose to the unlovely aromas of bear grease and linseed oil. But no one else shares those responses since the palette is totally personal.



*An unregistered Ralph Moore Rose, 'Betty's White'.
Photo credit: Jim Delahanty*

Rose colors invite my eyes to enjoy the pristine pastels of white blends and mauve accents, hot oranges and tropical reds, and the peculiar combinations of white, green and pink from the weather sensitive blooms like 'Eva Teschendorff' or 'Table Mountain.' The idea that a rose could be ugly is alien to me.

The senses of order and symmetry are aroused by the prospect of a perfect center conforming to the pyramid from the side and concentric from above. Diversity is satisfied by the range from the four petaled to the centifolia; and who can resist sprays and clusters and prodigious racemes?

The need for communion with others is slaked

by association with those also stimulated and affected by the beauties of the rose in its multiple manifestations. Let's face it: rosarians are a breed apart—linked by a commonality of affection for an inanimate object that transcends class and economics; as a group, rosarians tend to have more generosity than you see exhibited in any other national or occupational arena. The exhibitor's breakfast is a celebration of both roses and the rosarians who seek excellence.



*'Cherub' a 2009 Auction Rose.
Photo credit: Jim Delahanty*

Roses also pluck the distant chords of memory to make them new again. The rose reminds me of my mother and grandparents planting and reaping the rewards of unpaid labor. Mixed in with the memories are the false rose associations—the joy of making tuberose grow in inhospitable Eastern seaboard soil or the confusion about the Rose of Sharon. All these were and are a part of a heritage of sense and nonsense that accompanies any great love affair.

And, of course, there is frisson of unrequited love. I may love the rose, but there is no evidence that the rose loves me. The rose can never be a disappointment because there are no promises made or broken. The rose **is** and that is the sufficient condition. The rest is up to me.

Ultimately, of course, we are all reduced to the banality of an old song: 'I don't why I love you like I do; I don't know why, I just do.' ■

Ventura County Rose Society

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

Upcoming Events...

This Month's VCRS Meeting is Thursday, January 27th

**Featuring: *Buds, Birds & Beaches:
Springtime in New Zealand***

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.

January 27, 2011

Robert Funai
*Buds, Birds & Beaches:
Springtime in New Zealand*

April 28, 2011

VCRS members
Show 'n Tell

February 24, 2011

Elda Bielanski
Romancing the Rose

May 26, 2011

Dr. Jim Downer
*What's Bugging
Your Garden?*

March 12, 2011

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



February 5, 2011

Saturday, 11:00 a.m.

Ayers Hall
Pacific R S Auction
L.A. Arboretum
Contact: Chris Greenwood
chrisgreen1@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