



The Ventura Rose

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Volume 18, Issue 7

VCRS Meets at: 5100 Adolfo Rd, Camarillo

Visit our Website at:
www.venturarose.org

This Month's Meeting Presentation

Ventura County Rose Society
Our November meeting will feature

Tom Carruth

Vice President of Research at Weeks Roses
Hybridizer of 12+ AARS Roses

Presenting:

New Roses of 2011 and Beyond

Thursday, November 17, 2011

Doors open: 6:30 p.m.

Featured Presentation: 7:30 p.m.

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Volume 18, Issue 7
Ventura County Rose Society
www.venturarose.org

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Tom Carruth



Tom Carruth
Photo Credit: Gene Sasse

Tom Carruth is a plant 'freak' whose obsession blossomed as a child, despite growing up in the Texas panhandle. His passion became a profession after he received a Bachelors in Horticulture (1974) and a Masters in Plant Breeding (1976) from Texas A & M University. Regardless of the advice given by his most inspiring professor, Dr. J. C. Raulston, Tom pursued his dream to become a rose breeder. Since 1975, he's worked in the rose industry in California with the late Bill Warriner of Jackson & Perkins Co. and Jack Christensen of the former Armstrong's Nursery. Since 1988, he has been in charge of the rose hybridizing effort as Director of Research & Marketing at Weeks Roses.

The broad goal of Tom's breeding is to make the rose a contender with all plants, rather than a fussy queen of the garden. His introductions stress disease resistance, fragrance, floriferousness, novelty & attractive habit. 'Julia Child' serves as a prime example, achieving a very rare world-wide introduction. The velvety deep purple 'Ebb Tide' was the first of a real color breakthrough. Tom is the inventor of over 75 plant patents and he has also accumulated 11 AARS Award Winners in just 14 years.

Weeks' AARS Award Winners to emerge from Tom's hybridizing work include: the 2011 Winner, 'Dick Clark', which he co-hybridized with assistant Christian Bédard; Cinco de Mayo (2009), 'Strike It Rich (2007); 'Julia Child (2006); 'Wild Blue Yonder' (2006); 'About Face' (2005); 'Memorial Day' (2004); 'Hot Cocoa' (2003); 'Betty Boop' (1999); 'Fourth of July' (1999) and 'Scentimental' (1997).



'Peach Fuzz,' a cross of 'Fairy Moss' x 'New Year.'
An early Tom Carruth miniature introduction (1990)
Photo Credit: Pamela Hubbard

Tom has over 100 introductions to his credit with numerous national & international awards. Some of the other 'stars' from Tom's work includes... 'Home Run,' Pink Home Run (cohybridized with Christian Bédard), 'Ebb Tide,' 'Ch-Ching!' (co-hybridized with Christian Bédard), 'Marilyn Monroe,' 'Moonstone,' 'George Burns,' 'Neptune,' 'Chihuly,' 'Topsy Turvy,' 'Candy Land,' 'Purple Splash,' & 'Ruby Ruby.'

Tom wears many hats at Weeks. He writes all the descriptive copy for their catalog, oversees the catalog design & printing and directs the photography, marketing & website.

(Biography adapted from the Weeks Roses website as of August, 2011) ■

Moving Roses a Hope, Skip, and a Jump Away....

Ingrid Wapelhorst

It's hard to believe that as of November 15, 2011, Jim and I will have lived in our beautiful new home in Shady Cove, Oregon for a whole year. The move has been a wonderful new adventure in many ways but not without setbacks. The roses were the ones to suffer, unfortunately.

In our preliminary move to Southern Oregon in November 2010, we brought enough creature comforts for the winter and over 70 small roses and other potted plants which needed attention and couldn't be left behind. The rainy season had started in Southern Oregon and temperatures were dropping down to 20 degrees at night. The purchase of an inexpensive greenhouse on sale at a local farm supply outlet became the new home and apparent salvation for the potted plants; the greenhouse also provided protection from the deer which frequent our yard several times a day. The roses thrived over the winter.



*Ingrid Wapelhorst's emergency greenhouse.
Photo Credit: Ingrid Wapelhorst*

Four months later in early March of this year we returned to Southern California to put our house on the market and move our remaining belongings north to our new home, including all the roses we could dig up and fit into the

moving van (the eventual buyer advised us he had no interest in roses and "to take them all.") While many roses were dug up and taken home by local rose friends, about 100 or so roses and other plants--some of them very large and over 12 years old--were potted up in one day mostly in 5-gallon pots and loaded on the moving van at the end of March.

So why was this a **hope**, skip and a jump? The hopes and aspirations I had of growing all of the roses I'd salvaged from my Thousand Oaks garden in Oregon fizzled over the coming months. Despite the relatively short distance, a mere 700 miles north and only a matter of inches on the map, from Climate Zone 9b to 8a in a drier region of Oregon, the challenges the roses now faced were significant. The roses were enclosed in our dog run to protect them from the deer and most fared well at first, although a few died immediately having stressed out from being dug up and moved. Eventually many of them appeared to come down with blackspot, botrytis (canes dying back from the top), and possibly downy mildew (canes turning black from the soil up). Based on the symptoms, Kim Rupert suggested I investigate both fungus problems; my findings thus far, indicate that the latter were two of the problems. Canes were constantly cut back, some to the bud union as I began to use disinfectant on the pruners between cuts on a regular basis, finally resorting once to a copper fungicide spray. Apparently the controls were too little too late for a number of the roses. Waterlogging was another problem after the unusually wet spring, but some repotted roses recovered and some are sending up new basal shoots.

As for the roses in the greenhouse, all were overwhelmed with blackspot and aphids when we returned to Oregon in March. A Safer brand fungicide and hand squishing the aphids helped a little. The humidity in the greenhouse continued despite leaving the vents and doors open most of the time, but some of the young plants continued to suffer; the outside temperature, the continuing rain, and the deer kept them inside the greenhouse.

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Starting in May, curculios, cucumber beetles, and aphids were making themselves at home on the outside roses, and rose slugs were added to the mix in July, all of which required several trips through the roses daily to remove the critters and disbudding many of them on a regular basis. Spider mites hit the greenhouse in early summer and continued despite jets of water and Safer insecticide spray for a month or more.

When the temperatures were warm enough at night to bring the plants outside, the deer soon found them, and they were returned to the greenhouse. Cane borers started to invade the big canes of most of the outside roses during the summer, doing major damage in one day. In September “webworms” (a moth prevalent during rainy years which forms a tent on trees and bushes and whose baby caterpillars eat the host plant’s leaves) found the rose canes and leaves to their liking. In September the grasshoppers arrived.

After months of delays in getting approval for river irrigation rights and to install our deer fencing around the rose garden (being so close to the river, we’re subject to local ordinances and FEMA regulations for all construction, even fencing), the fencing was installed by early August, irrigation pipes were laid from the river up to the garden area, and the trenching started for the rose beds, a slow process in our very rocky soil. As of this writing in early October, nearly 150 roses have been settled into the ground in a mixture of garden soil (sifted of rocks a shovelful at a time), soil amendment and horse manure. The survivors appear much happier in their new home.

LESSONS LEARNED

I’m still analyzing all of the variables that led to the sickness and even death of some of the roses that I brought here as well as the death of some new bands I ordered which died some months later. Among those variables are the very wet winter on the West Coast where even my unpruned roses in Thousand Oaks may have become hosts to major fungus problems over the winter before they were moved north;



*Pergola in the center of the developing garden, October, 2011
Photo Credit: Ingrid Wapelhorst*

the trauma of being dug up and moved; the almost constant rain and waterlogging some of the roses experienced in their cans for many months; insufficient sanitation and sterilizing of the pruners at the onset of the diseases, and lack of an effective fungicide spray program even after the diseases were becoming obvious and rampant and needed radical measures. Three rose growers up here have complained about “black canes” this year, so it may be a local problem during such wet winters and springs. In addition, a pH test of our well water used up to the time the river irrigation was installed in late summer, shows 8.4 (which helps explain the chlorosis seen on some roses); the river irrigation water is a more plant friendly 7.6. The greenhouse was a blessing and a curse at the same time. Yes, the young potted plants survived the winter cold in a sheltered location, but without proper ventilation (fans) and extremely careful attention to sanitation, disinfecting of all tools with every cut, and effective disease prevention or at least control methods, it appears I created the perfect environment for fungus diseases and pests. And as Jim Delahanty has pointed out based on his moves to Texas and Washington, some roses just don’t grow or grow well in different climates. Only time will tell which ones like it here.

THE GOOD NEWS!

Despite quite a number of rose losses, many very healthy and happy ones still remain and

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are now in the ground. Our approval to use river water for irrigation allows us to use more water than we'll ever need for a ridiculously low annual fee plus electricity for the pump, which is relatively inexpensive up here. Jim has made the garden possible, taking care of everything from the irrigation and fencing requirements, truckloads of amendments, trenching with his tractor, hiring workers for the heavy labor, and even helping me plant each rose in the ground. It could never have been done without him. Meanwhile, I've been busy nursing along the survivors, ordering more roses to fill in spots left vacant by lost roses and finding the best locations for them in the garden. Tough job, but somebody's gotta do it.

A LEARNING EXPERIENCE

The biggest lesson I've learned is that growing roses in a new climate presents more challenges and that the old methods of growing roses in Southern California may not be sufficient in this new environment. Preventative steps may be needed in the future to avoid major fungus problems from getting a foothold in the garden, especially during very rainy years like this past one. Roses under extreme stress from a move may need a great deal of extra attention and TLC to make the transition, especially when kept in their cans for extended periods of time. Growing roses in greenhouse conditions is entirely different from growing roses outside and extra precautions need to be taken to insure their home does not become a breeding ground for fungus diseases and bugs. I don't regret trying to move so many roses to Southern Oregon since their chances of survival were nil if they'd been left behind. Today, however, I realize how one has to adapt to a new environment and to work with the roses based on the current conditions not on past knowledge. Finding the roses which are really happy here will take time, but, as always, it'll be part of the ongoing experiment I call gardening with roses. ■



The Garden in November

In the French Republican Calendar of the last decade in the 18th century, the period between the fourth week of October and the third week of November was called Brumaire; brumaire referenced the fog which was characteristic of France at that time of the year. Brumaire thus corresponds to much of our November, a month of uncertain weather and capricious rose gods. Just before the last local rose show, there have been high winds of nearly 60 miles an hour, single digit humidity of 3 to 6 percent, and the promise of rain showers to complete the trifecta of pre-rose show horrors. For the rosarian November is the month of reflection and reaction.

Depending on what the weather provides the rose gardener must react to either too much rain or not enough. **Jeri Jennings in Camarillo** notes that the weather services are talking about La Nina conditions in the South Pacific which will result in drier winter weather, necessitating a constant watch to ensure that roses have enough water, especially those in containers because they can become desiccated in the space of hours.

Dan Bifano in Santa Barbara notes that many rosarians quit spraying for fungal diseases after the first of November because the activities of a sensible pruning program in January will kill those diseases that would appear in Spring. Some of the mildew and rust will occur because the warm days and cool nights are ideal for their reproduction. Some of it will be testimony to the genetic predispositions of some of the Hybrid Perpetuals and Bourbons. It is good to remember that some modern roses can also be especially susceptible to fungal diseases: 'Playboy' and 'Pierre de Ronsard' come to mind immediately.

Bud Jones also in Santa Barbara will not be adding any fertilizer to his rose bushes for the remainder of the year. While many rosarians believe that modern roses are programmed to

bloom continuously without any particular rest period, others believe that there is value in encouraging the roses to go into semi-dormancy over the relatively mild winter months in southern California.



Hips of rosa rugosa
Photo Credit: Morn the Gorn

Sandy Gaal in Santa Paula plans to finish up her garden for the year before Thanksgiving, because the interstice between Thanksgiving and New Year's leaves almost no time for the garden. So she goes around in her garden making voluminous notes on a clipboard to ensure that the various tasks get done. Where rose hips form, she foregoes deadheading because she loves the look of rose hips in the garden. Her fall pruning program includes trees, topiaries, hedges, dahlias, and pathway clearing. Her November program also includes adding plants such as calendulas to the vegetable garden, some Jerusalem artichokes, Iceland poppies and a small bed of ranunculus. As in Sherman Oaks, the paperwhites are already blooming and providing powerful fragrance for the autumnal air.

Dawn-Marie Johnson in Moorpark spends November in the garden planning for additions to the garden, making an inventory of spaces in the garden for new plants, revising the master landscape plan, and photographing roses that need to be replaced or relocated. **Janet Sklar in Northridge** already has a list of plants to be removed from her garden, including a 27 year old 'Olympiad' that is down to one cane. 'Perfume Delight' rusts something fierce in its



Dog Rose (rosa canina) hips
Photo Credit: MPF

current location, so she is considering moving it to her mother's home where it might perform better. (Relocating roses frequently improves their performance. While I cannot grow 'Playboy' because of its propensity to rust, my friend five miles away in Toluca Lake has no programs with it whatsoever and does not spray for rust; I tell her it because the prevailing winds in Toluca Lake blow all the rust spores to North Hollywood.) Janet is also removing companion plants that are over fifty years old and overgrown. Her abutilon has become a tree. Something every gardener should consider is that the maturity of a garden changes not only sightlines, but the availability of sunlight and the competition for nutrients in the soil from adjoining trees or shrubs.

Paddy Ruzella in Ventura let October get away from her and she is planning to do in November what she didn't do last month; her tasks include rebuilding water basins for the roses, clearing away dead wood, and removing suckers. She also needs to locate a new hedge cutter because her former one retired.

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Jim Delahanty in Sherman Oaks will use much of the November time watering, checking on the container plants, and updating the list of roses that appears on Helpmefind.com/roses. Every rose gardener should consider listing the contents of his or her rose garden on Helpmefind. Not only is it a resource for locating roses in public gardens, and those available at commercial nurseries, it maintains a list of roses in private gardens to supplement those that have disappeared from commerce. This can occur more quickly than you might think. 'Tiger Tail' an attractive orange and white striped floribunda, appeared in commerce in 1991; twenty years later no nursery carries the rose and it may be found in 8 private gardens, only two of which are outside of California.' 'Misty Dawn,' a pure white miniature, was introduced in 1979; thirty years later it is listed in only two gardens in the entire United States.

Of course, being southern California, it is a good bet that there will be rose blooms available to decorate holiday tables in both November and 'do-nothing' December. ■

Meeting Our Consulting Rosarians: Epilogue...

Paddy Ruzella

For over a year now we have been meeting the Consulting Rosarians of the Ventura County Rose Society and learning a little bit about their lives beyond that which we glean at VCRS meetings and events. The series officially ended with the interview of Jim Delahanty published in the September issue of "The Ventura Rose." However, there remain four other CR members who have moved away from the area or who no longer hold the title although they remain with us and are as busy as ever in the world of roses. So it is with pleasure that we follow the paths of Pat Moomey, Ingrid Wapelhorst and Jeri and Clay Jennings.

In February 2010 Pat Moomey and her husband, Keith, left the home they had



*Pat Moomey in her vegetable garden in Prescott, Arizona
Photo Credit: Pat Moomey*

renovated in Camarillo and went off to live in Prescott, Arizona. Earlier with Keith's retirement coming ever closer, the couple looked around and eventually purchased almost an acre of vacant land in Prescott. They drew up plans and work began on a brand new home of their own design. While she was with us at the VCRS, Pat clearly demonstrated that she is a very organized individual and so it is not surprising that she set up a schedule of things to be done. While the house was pretty much complete when the Moomeys moved in, Pat says "we are doing something every month" in the garden. "We have been here about 18 months. My goal is to be completed by the end of 2012." Although Pat does most of the actual planting and gardening Keith has already built her a shed, a greenhouse, raised beds for her vegetables and a cottage rose garden. So the new garden is a real team effort especially as there is a new dog in the household!

Prescott is a town of approximately 40,000 people set up in the mountains. The nearest large city is Phoenix, some two hours away. The Moomeys did have some friends in the Prescott area before they moved but they have also found the locals to be very friendly and helpful. Pat says "the local Rose Society closed a couple of years ago so I have joined the Alta Vista Garden Club. Three or four ladies enjoy roses and were members of the Rose Society. I have become the Program Chair and enjoy

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searching out speakers and events in the area (for myself as well as the Club.) The Club does a lot of work in the community, such as projects at the local hospital, Habitat for Humanity, library beautification, etc. They are a great group.” Pat says there are many retirees in Prescott, a lot of having come from California. Keith has also found and joined a breakfast group of men from law enforcement.



*Pat Moomey's Greenhouse in Arizona.
Photo Credit: Pat Moomey*

Pat goes on to say, “we have only 2 nurseries in town and one grower. Then we have the big box stores. One nursery has classes on Saturday mornings to answer questions about our challenges. Very informative.” Pat could not resist taking 15 roses with her from Camarillo but she had the same luck as so many others and they all died! One of the biggest challenges in their new garden is the soil. Pat reports “we have the worst soil” so it must be amended extensively or the plants must be in pots. The greenhouse was built to try to overcome some of the long hard winters. Then there are hot summers averaging daily temperatures of 80 to 90 degrees. Plus there is more wildlife in Prescott than they experienced in Camarillo. Despite these challenges, however, Pat says they love their new home which they were able to design to suit themselves and they are extremely happy to have made the move as “it is a great fit for us.”

Late in 2010 Ingrid Wapelhorst and her husband, Jim, moved from Thousand Oaks to a small town on the Rogue River in Oregon. In her own words, Ingrid offers some thoughts on the move.

“We love our new home on 2.6 acres on the Rogue River in Shady Cove, Oregon, population 2,600, are adapting quickly to the seasons, and are gradually making new friends in this wonderfully varied “city” and getting a kick out of small-town politics but tactfully staying out of them! Our beautiful rural setting by the river is home to deer, geese, ducks, bald eagles, osprey, heron, red-tailed hawks, woodpeckers, swallows, and hummingbirds. Our latest project has been designing and building a rose garden on over a quarter acre of our barren property for approximately 200 roses, bulbs and perennials arranged in circles around a central 14-foot square pergola for climbing roses and clematis. Down the road 20 miles is Medford, population 75,000, with many big box stores and chain store outlets but only one retail nursery and the Grange Co-op, which offer a very limited selection of mostly Knockout and Iceberg roses; fortunately, Rogue Valley Roses is only 30 miles away. I do miss the very large rose selection and convenience of shopping at Otto’s, Armstrong, Sperling, Green Thumb, Baron Brothers, and so many other nurseries within 25 miles from my home in Thousand Oaks as well many others within 60 miles, which I took for granted for so many years!

I hope to eventually join the local rose society which meets an hour away in Grants Pass to learn how to grow roses successfully in this new and somewhat challenging environment and to establish new rose-loving friends with whom I hope I can develop something close to the camaraderie that I so much enjoyed at the VCRS and am very much missing now. Despite the loss of personal interaction with our friends, the move has been a wonderfully exciting new adventure for us, and we’re very much enjoying our new bucolic lifestyle and all it has to offer!”

We are fortunate that Jeri and Clay Jennings have not moved out of state but are still very much with us in Camarillo and active members of the Ventura County Rose Society. However, during the last year they dropped their membership in the American Rose Society and

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are concentrating their efforts on the Heritage Rose Group. Since membership in the ARS is a requirement for the Consulting Rosarian designation, the Jennings no longer qualify. They are, however, as busy with roses now as they were when they became CRs in the early 1990's and later received the honor of being named Outstanding Consulting Rosarians in the Pacific Southwest District in 2002. Jeri and Clay founded the Gold Coast Chapter of the Heritage Rose Group some eight to ten years ago; since their interest in roses is predominantly in Old Garden Roses, this informal group of rosarians dedicated to the growing and preservation of Old Roses is a natural fit for them.

Before retirement, Clay worked as an engineer for the U.S. Navy finishing his career at Port Hueneme and Jeri worked principally as an advertising copywriter and commercial artist and freelanced action sports photography. They met at a dog show and the two halves soon became the whole that we know today as "the Jennings." Their involvement with dogs was their first common interest. Jeri writes, "We were introduced, by mutual friends, on the day Webster (Clay's Afghan Hound) became a Champion, and my boy Daemon went to his first show. We now no longer show our dogs in Conformation (the beauty pageant sort of dog show) but Clay shows them in Dog Agility competition." The current trio at the Jennings' home are long haired Dalmatians, Becket, Tika and Katie who came to them through the Waco, Texas, Humane Society and Second Chances Dalmation Rescue.

Jeri goes on to say, "Roses came a bit later. In 1986, I was working for a woman who bought a home built in 1920, which came with established rose beds. She wanted more roses – but 'only the highest-rated roses,' and in pursuit of which she assigned me to research roses. She was looking for Hybrid Tea Roses, but the more I learned, the more I was intrigued by Old Roses." This experience led to Jeri ordering three Old Roses for the Jennings' garden. She was somewhat startled when Clay then announced that he didn't even

like roses. He thought they were "ugly plants with bare bottoms that all look like they went to Military School."



*Jeri Jennings Family home in Adina, Texas
Photo Credit: Jeri Jennings*

Roses have always been in Jeri's life. Her grandfather's beloved stepmother grew roses at the Cain family home in Adina, Texas and Jeri says she grew up helping her grandmother deadhead her roses. In retrospect Jeri wishes she had stuck with the rose culture methods she learned from her grandmother as they best suit the Old Roses she and Clay now grow and propagate. It would, she says, have saved them a lot of heart ache as they worked their way through the trials and errors that have brought them to the level of expert rosarians they are today.

In one of the strange coincidences of life when Jeri and Clay began joining Rose Societies, they discovered that Bartje Miller who years earlier had mentored Jeri in dog obedience was also a Consulting Rosarian. Bartje, along with the CRs and non CR rosarians they met all helped in the learning process. Another major influence in their rose life was Bob Edberg. In those days he was operating "Limberlost Roses" in the San Fernando Valley and "he knew reams about Old Roses – moreover, he knew our area. He broke it to us gently (but repeatedly) that we had started out with the wrong Old Roses for our conditions. He urged us to plant 'Evergreen' roses (Tea Roses, China Roses, Noisette Roses, and a

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scant handful of Hybrid Perpetuals and early Hybrid Teas.)” Many rose adventures later it is still these roses that the Jennings favor. Why Old Roses rather than Modern Roses? Jeri writes, “I love them for their variety and informality in the garden. There are no rigidly-upright, bare-bottomed plants here. I love them for their many flower forms, and soft colors, and the wide range of their fragrances. I love them for their ability to withstand disease, and drought, and neglect, and still thrive. I probably love them most for their continuing connection to human history. When I touch a rose that has lived for hundreds of years, I’m touching a piece of a plant that watched all the intervening history roll by, and that is special to me.”



“China from Adina”
Photo Credit: Jeri Jennings

History and preservation feature strongly in the Jennings love affair with roses. They have traveled many miles in their motor home visiting old cemeteries where they knew they would find Old Roses – “rose rustling” it is sometimes called – taking small clippings from roses that have all but disappeared from today’s world of roses. One of their early trips involved a visit to Jeri’s ancestral home in Adina, Texas. Although the roses grown by her grandfather’s stepmother were all gone they found one rose bush flourishing near the family gravesites in a small cemetery nearby. The clippings they took rooted and “The China from Adina” now grows in their Camarillo garden and returned to family still resident in Texas.



Paul Barden’s ‘Jeri Jennings,’ a Hybrid Musk
Photo Credit: Jeri Jennings

Over the years the Jennings have “been involved in the creation of public rose gardens, given countless talks on various rose topics, written articles, and stood ready to assist people with rose questions.” Their accomplishments and adventures go far beyond the boundaries of this article but suffice it to say that when a talented breeder, Paul Barden, names a lovely yellow rose “Jeri Jennings” we know we are indeed fortunate to have this active couple as members of the Ventura County Rose Society.

Finally, all that remains to be said is a huge thank you to all who have contributed so willingly and ably to this series. It has been an honor and a delight to have these busy people open their gardens and themselves to us in a way that leaves us knowing that they too have had their ups and downs with their roses but by persevering they prevailed. By taking that extra step in their progress as rosarians and becoming CR’s they have demonstrated their willingness to help others and it is now up to us to take advantage of that generous gift. ■

Farewell for Now... *November, 2011*

Barbara Osterberg

Well, it's the end of the year and I'm about to write my last newsletter article. I want to tell you how much fun it's been sharing my conundrums. I can't believe my first article was written in 2005, and I remember how nervous I was to pour my heart into an article fearing the judgment of all of you. Thank you for your kind words, for letting me visit your homes and for reading my pithy comments about rose gardening in general. We all love our gardens but walk a slightly different path with our observances, pleasures and rewards.

I came across an article I wrote about Gregg Lowery, and the exhilaration we felt when he advised us not to prune. Some of your responses indicated that you weren't too keen on his methods, nor was I, after attempting to "not prune". Some of us tried his techniques, thinking that the time and effort would free us for other gardening diversions, but we soon found out that denuding our branches was a whole lot more work than we expected. The roses continued to remind us that even if their leaves were gone, this didn't stop them from growing and they became aggressive in using their devious canes to poke and scratch. His story telling of "Found Old Garden Roses" was a hit with me. I love old garden roses, their history and especially how he helped save them.

What about the Magic Rose? Did anyone attempt origami, and provide blooms to shut-ins? Nothing compares to the "real" rose bud, of course, but trying it was fun and a bit of a challenge and a great diversion during the winter months.

I look back at the pictures that I've taken of your gardens and realized the wonderful friendships that have developed through the years, and it gives me much pleasure. Many of



Barbara's Magic Rose
Photo Credit: Barbara/Ken Osterberg

you grow more than roses; you also grow succulents as does Evelyn Tidwell. Nell August grows a Christmas type cactus flower; she shared cuttings which are growing nicely in my yard. I will not forget the beautiful quote from Sue Rosecrans, when we were enjoying one of her roses: "This rose is like an aging person, still lovely, pretty, but different".

Remember Baldo Villegas, website www.sactrose.org, and his "cute" bugs? He offered a different perspective on bugs. I gleaned so much information that I took that information to work, in the form of a presentation about chemicals and sprays, to try to convince others to let the good bugs live and let something else eat the bad bugs and to rethink using chemicals in their homes.

Dee Lyon, from the Conejo Valley Audubon Society, urged us to remember our feathered friends and to add plants to our gardens that the birds can live and hide amongst, www.laspilitas.com. Her website promotes growing native plants with lovely pictures of birds and butterflies. She reminds us that California Native Plants look beautiful nestled amongst our roses and provide support and sometimes a bit of color when the rose is "resting".

And we can't forget about the article I

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attempted regarding Disney Landscaping. This was probably the most difficult article I've ever written. One would think that the gardeners at Disneyland would want to share their information; not so. I learned all about Houdini and the Secrets to Happiness, but nothing about the planting and upkeep of the Disney landscape.

Dare I mention Rose Celebrations and the awesome auctions? What a trip these functions provided. To write about them afterwards brought back so many wishful desires, such as wanting to keep all the roses I was baby-sitting. Caring for them during the months before the auction resulted in an attachment to the roses and an empty pocket book at the end of the auction.

My research for articles required me to read books. (Don't forget our library which has a super selection of books to ingratiate you to the garden rose.) Pictures are nice, but history with text and pictures is even better. Don't we get a better appreciation of our roses, knowing their heritage? Take for example, the Romans who liked to wear a crown of roses to cover their balding heads.

Think about the 'American Beauty' Rose that became the "sweetheart" rose of the country and to find out it is difficult and feisty to grow. Actually this rose was French. It fared poorly in France and England. It needs a mild climate. It proved difficult to grow, even in a greenhouse. It demands special soils and temperatures. To bring the blooms to perfection, the grower had to pinch the flower buds until the bush had gathered sufficient strength for its single display. Even if everything were perfect, the bush might yield no more than six or seven perfect blooms in a season, and then it would die. Does anyone have it in their garden?

One of the most interesting chapters in 'In Search of Lost Roses' by Thomas Christopher is titled "Black Gardeners". Thomas Christopher had been trying, unsuccessfully, to interview the black gardeners who took cuttings and passed them down through the ages, thus

promoting the continuation of old roses. 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 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? 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? These are very good questions indeed, unfortunately, these gardeners were not anxious to share their information. He did find one old gardener that learned from his mother; she put rooted cuttings under fruit jars. She declined to be interviewed.

May you have many productive garden days ahead of you and enjoy the fruits of your labor. Each day is a new day and each day brings a new surprise.

Editor's note: Barbara has been recognized by the American Rose Society with multiple Awards of Merit for her articles.

Desiderata

The best rose-bush, after all, is not that which has the fewest thorns, but that which bears the finest roses.

Henry Van Dyke (1853-1933),
American essayist, poet, and
clergyman

Birthdays:

November 17: Jeri Jennings
November 22: Elaine Gill
November 30: Dawn-Marie Johnson
December 3: Hetty Shurtleff
December 13: Taylor Swift: (21)
December 14: Nostradamus: (507)
December 18: Janet Sklar; Dr. Ken Kerr

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In DECEMBER:

The VCRS Holiday Party:

The meeting will take place on Thursday, December 15, 2011 at the Ventura County Educational Conference Center, 5100 Adolfo Rd., in Camarillo, starting at 6:00 p.m. The Bylaws provide that the Installation of Officers shall occur at this meeting. Tradition provides that awards, hospitality and gift exchanges also occur at this meeting. This year the program will include the awarding of the Bronze Honor Medal to Janet Sklar. And the naming of 3 recipients of \$50 gift certificates for the 'Attas.'

Hospitality: Hospitality is under the guidance of Paddy Ruzella. If your last name begins with the letters A through L, please bring a dessert. If your last name begins with the letters M through Z, please bring a salad. Beverages will be provided as usual.

Gifts: Some people refer to the gift giving program as 'Zombie gift-giving.' Everyone is invited to bring a small wrapped gift of about \$15 in value. These will be distributed by a number. However, under rules devised by a sadist, gifts may be confiscated by a higher number winner. Only one or two people really understand the rules; Jane Delahanty is one of them.

This is the only purely social monthly meeting of the VCRS year. Come help celebrate our successes and initiatives and enjoy each other's company.

Thought for the Month:

OPTIMIST: "A rosarian who saves catalog pictures to compare them with the flowers next spring." Ralph Moore in the 'American Rose,' December 1990.

Dues are Due!

Technically, all dues are payable on the first day of each calendar year. However, the By-laws sensibly provide for a grace period extending through mid-March. The cut-off date this year is March 15, 2012; after that date no more newsletters will be sent. If you joined the society after October 1, 2011, your dues are considered to be paid

through calendar year 2012. If you are a trial member, now is the time to become a permanent member. A really good time to do that is at the Holiday Party on December 15th.

Otherwise, if you have not paid your dues for Calendar year 2012, please send a \$20.00 check payable to the VCRS to the following address:

Earl Holst, VCRS Treasurer,
P. O .Box 102
Agoura Hills, CA 91376

Question of the Month: What is the difference between soft and hard wood cuttings? The answer comes from Kim Rupert, plantsman, propagator, and hybridizer: Soft wood cuttings are those which grew and flowered this year and are taken for propagation. These are the ones which require either misting or covering with plastic or glass to prevent them from drying out and collapsing because they are "soft". Think the stem from which a flower has just shattered. Soft wood is what many harvest for rooting spring through fall and more often roots in a matter of weeks due to their more active growth state and higher levels of hormones. Hard wood cuttings are those which either flowered last year and from which no new growth has yet been produced, or the wood from which this year's flowering stems have grown. Usually, hard wood cuttings are taken without foliage and they generally require months to callus and form roots. They are the ones more often harvested and struck under the mother plant, either in the open or under a jar. Hard wood has more stored nutrients which would usually be used to bring the plant into the large rush of growth in spring.

January Pruning Demonstration:

The Ventura County Rose Society and the Gold Coast Heritage Rose Society will conduct a jointly sponsored Rose Pruning Demonstration on January 14, 2012, at the Stagecoach Inn Museum Rose Garden at 51 North Ventu Park Road in Newbury Park, CA

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beginning at 9:00 a.m. In the past this demonstration has been advertised solely as an Old Garden Rose pruning demonstration. In recognition that at least half of the people who attend expect a pruning demonstration of modern roses, the two societies have accommodated this anomaly by offering the pruning demonstration for Old Garden Roses to start at 9:00 a.m and the Modern Rose Demonstration to commence at 10:30 a.m. Thus, the two sections will run serially rather than concurrently.

Jim Delahanty, President of the Ventura County Rose Society will provide the Introduction to Pruning and the sections on China Roses and polyanthas. Jeri Jennings, the founder of the Gold Coast Heritage Rose Group will discuss the rest of the Old Garden roses in the Stagecoach Inn Museum Rose Garden with an emphasis on the Teas and Noisettes. Clay Jennings, co-founder of the Gold Coast group, will show how to handle climbers. Dawn-Marie Johnson, the VCRS Chair of Consulting Rosarians will commence the demonstration of modern rose pruning at 10:30 and will conclude about 11:30 in the morning.

There will be a few roses for sale at the entrance to the parking lot, including several rooted cuttings of "Winecup," a "Found" rose from Texas (this rose is also known as 'Purpurea').

VCRS 2011 Consulting Rosarian Report: Dawn-Marie Johnson

2011 certainly was a good year to share our love of roses. We started our Community outreach programs this year in April with our VCRS 'Good to Grow' Roses for Ventura County booth at Otto and Sons in Fillmore. In August we talked roses and shared arrangements with old and new friends at the Ventura County Fair and finished with a fantastic Celebration of Roses Event on September 24th.

As we look forward to thoughts of Spring Roses, please remember to keep our 'VCRS

Business cards' with you when you visit our local Garden Centers. When you are at the Nursery, offer a few cards to the staff and remind them that if they meet anyone with rose questions, to offer them a VCRS card. Also, as Bill Donaldson reminded us at the September monthly meeting, remember to keep a few cards with you – you never know when an opportunity to 'Talk Roses' may happen and the cards are especially handy at the centers during bare root season in December and January!

I am always looking for new ideas and venues for our community outreach programs. I am considering a May Spring/Mother's Day event at a local shopping Mall...Would appreciate your thoughts on this idea and if you have any new ideas, please let me know.

I would like to personally thank all of you for the enthusiasm, hard work and beautiful roses you contributed to our various community outreach programs....it has been a pleasure working with all of you.

Change. 'The old order changeth, yielding place to the new.'

One of the few memories I have of my high school days is being required to memorize lines from 'Idylls of the King,' an epic poem by Alfred, Lord Tennyson. One of those lines appears above. Like so much of my education, it was wasted on me at the time and my appreciation of its wisdom waited some half century plus. As it happens, it applies perfectly to the metamorphoses of the "Ventura Rose." As the editor of this newsletter for the last half dozen years, I have been unbelievably lucky in the caliber of the people who wrote for this newsletter. Last year we had the extraordinary circumstances of five different writers for this publication being awarded American Rose Society (ARS) Awards of Merit, a recognition that the articles were of the highest quality and excellence. Unless you are a reader of dozens of local society newsletters, you cannot recognize how unusual this is. Suffice to say,

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we have all been fortunate to be the recipient of those talents. And it has been a good run with the team of writers, proofreaders and editors joined together in this enterprise.

We have also been lucky to have Patrick Delahanty to composite and arrange the items sent to him into a readable and attractive format. He has done this not only for the newsletter, but for the Rose Auction catalogs of the past few years as well. It will give some indication of the talent at hand when I indicate that the last Auction Rose Catalog ran some 30,000 words with over two hundred pictures.

However, this happy state of affairs has come to an end. Before it does, words of thanks should be extended to the staff of writers including but not limited to Barbara Osterberg, Paddy Ruzella, Ingrid Wapelhorst, Lynette Buchanan-Roth, Janet Sklar, Dawn-Marie Johnson, and Jeri Jennings. I could expand on the particular contributions of each one, but then this note would become a tome. One of the strangest aspects of life is that while you are living in a Golden Age of anything, you don't know it until it is over.

The next issue of the 'Ventura Rose' will be a scaled down version, roughly a third of its current size. Partially, this is because the writers have decided to move on, as has the editor and publisher. Partially, this is because I have written 'The Garden in Month x' lyrically, satirically, and incoherently and need a break from that duty. And partially because it is time to re-think the role and the utility of the newsletter. We have supplemented the newsletter with increasing use of the website (www.venturarose.org) and the monthly (and intermittent) emails and will continue to do so.

Thank you for your readership. See you in another guise in January.

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, November 17th
Featuring:**

Tom Carruth
New Roses of 2011 and Beyond

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.

November 17, 2011

Tom Carruth
*New Roses of 2011
& Beyond*

December 15, 2011

Holiday Party
2011 Bronze Medalist

January 14, 2012

*VCRS/Gold Coast
Pruning Demonstration*
Stagecoach Inn Museum
9:00 a.m. to noon

January 26, 2012

Pat Shanley
*What the ARS means to
YOU!*

February 23, 2012

Suzanne Horn
*Microminiatures: A
forgotten class*

March 22, 2012

Baldo Villegas
*IPM: Integrated Pest
Management*

January 21-22, 2012

Great Rosarians of the
World-West
Huntington Botanical Gardens
San Marino, CA.

Contact: Clair Martin
(clairmartin@mac.com)

February 4, 2012

Pacific Rose Society
Rose Auction
Los Angeles Arboretum
Arcadia, California
Contact: Chris Greenwood
(crisgreen1@aol.com)

