

The Ventura Rose

Published by the Ventura County Rose Society—An Affiliate of the American Rose Society

VCRS April Meeting & Presentation

*** April 23, 2015 ***

Bob Mucica

Tools in the Garden

Doors open at 6:30 p.m. for refreshments
Rose Sharing & Celebration 7:00 p.m.
Guest Speaker Presentation 7:30 p.m.

5100 Adolfo Road, Camarillo, CA
www.venturarose.org



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Musings from Elton MacPherson



Hello Fellow Rose Lovers,

Recently one of our members said to me "To be a good Rose Society you need two things, good programs and a good newsletter." The more I thought about what she had said the more I realized we have both. I'd like to talk a little about the people who are responsible.

Our Program Co-Chairs are Elda Bielanski and Karen Fitzpatrick. Each month they search out speakers who are informative and entertaining and it is not an easy job. Last minute cancellations, making travel

arrangements, the occasional airport run, taking the speaker to dinner before our meeting and dealing with video and audio requirements are just a few of the items Elda and Karen deal with each month. By the way, they recently scored a big "get" when they lined up Jolene Adams, the current President of the American Rose Society, to speak to us at our March 2016 meeting. If you have a particular interest in a rosy subject, let them know. You just might be surprised what they can come up with and they do appreciate your suggestions.

Our newsletter editor

is Roz Thébaud and her talent and effort is on display every month on these pages. I eagerly await the e-mail that brings the newsletter to me and I bet you do also. Once again the intent is to inform and entertain and Roz does both with each edition of "The Ventura Rose." It's not easy finding new things to say or show but Roz hits the mark each time.

My thanks go out to Elda, Karen and Roz. They are a major part of why we are (dare I say it) a great local Rose Society.

I'll see you at the next meeting on April 23.

Elton MacPherson

Descanso Gardens Tour

VCRS has an opportunity to join with the San Fernando Rose Society and the Beverly Hills Rose Society for an excursion to Descanso Gardens on June 6. This will be a docent led tour of the gardens and the home.

Irene Pashalides has more information at the April meeting. Thanks to Irene for putting this together! She will be at the hospitality table!

April Is Keep
AMERICA
BEAUTIFUL
Month

The Ventura Rose

"Tools in the Garden" - Bob Mucica

The April speaker for the VCRS General Meeting will be Bob Mucica. Bob hails from upstate New York where he was born and raised. After earning a Bachelor of Science degree in Electrical Engineering and a Masters degree in Business Administration, Bob went to work for the Rocketdyne Division of Boeing in Canoga Park, CA. During his 42 years at Boeing, he worked on all of the programs associated with major

military and science endeavors, including the Apollo Moon Landing and the Space Shuttle. The last 10 years were spent as Director of Rocketdyne's Advanced Programs for New Space and Terrestrial electrical energy power systems.

After retiring, he decided to further pursue his hobby of gardening. To increase his knowledge and skills, Bob enrolled at Venture College and

took classes in horticulture and agriculture. Currently he has 40 fruit trees, two vegetable gardens and several roses. He has given talks at Baron Brothers Nursery.

Bob's talk will focus on hand tools used in maintaining gardens as well as orchards. He plans to include soil preparation, maintenance and end of season care and preparation.



Bob Mucica, the VCRS April 23



Gardens of the World Rose, shared by Hallie Blau at the VCRS March meeting.

Why a Fragrant Rose Matters

This article, written by Darrell Schramm, is from the March 2015 ARS publication "The Fragrant Rose."

A common complaint about roses is that they lack fragrance. That may be generally true of most florist roses, but it needn't be so in the garden. True, even many garden roses refuse to please the human nose; part of the reason is that in the last half of the 20th century, breeders were more interested in hybridizing roses for larger size, vigor, and new or unusual color. They overlooked scent.

Yet as early as 1912, rosarian T. Geoffrey Henslow wrote, "The Show tent has largely been responsible for the loss of perfume in our gardens." Clearly, over a hundred years ago, breeders had become more concerned about the appearance of a rose rather than its integrity.

Fortunately, about 10 years ago a few hybridizers, having heard the public clamor for scent, began breeding fragrance into roses again. Unfortunately,

as the current and the last 10 years of *American Rose* issues indicate in their list of new rose introductions, few new roses have a strong scent; most produce a mild or no scent at all. As for those that do, one contemporary rose breeder has written that "modern roses have relatively simple 'nose catching' fragrances that don't seem to have the complexity of the Old Garden Roses."

the David Austin roses, nearly all of which contain some fragrance, from 'Munstead Wood', 'Queen of Sweden', and 'Evelyn' to the earlier 'Tamora' and 'Gertrude Jekyll'. Aside from Austin's roses, we also have such modern roses of scent like 'Best Kept Secret' and 'Summer Romance' (both of 2014), 'Julia Child' (2004), 'Scentimental' (1999), 'Fragrant Dream' (1988), 'Double Delight' (1977), 'Fragrant Cloud' (1967), 'Mister Lincoln' (1964) and other hybrid teas and floribundas.

It is, however, the scent of certain roses our grandmothers and great-grandmothers (continued)

The Ventura Rose

San Fernando Valley Rose Society Show

SOON

The theme for the San Fernando Valley Rose Society's 2015 Annual Rose Show is "Festival of Roses". This will be on Saturday April 11, 2015, from 1:00—4:00 p.m. at the Sepulveda Garden Center located at 16633 Magnolia Blvd., Encino, CA 91436.

Entries will be received between 6:30-10:00 a.m. Judges question and answer is 1:30-2:00 p.m. and the award presentations are at 2:00 p.m. The show is open free to the public starting at 1:00 p.m.

There is a new Section X, Non-sanctioned, No award category. This is a great place to ask the judges if they can identify a rose for you.

The entire rose show schedule is on the website www.sfvroses.org. A map to the site is also available online.

Why a Fragrant Rose Matters - continued

grew that many of us remember with nostalgia: strong, often powerful fragrances that plant themselves in our memory. To name just a few pinks: the big, fat rose 'The Doctor' (1936), the subtle 'September Morn' (1915) and the once-famous 'Radiance' (1908). To name a few color blends, some combination of pink, orange, yellow, vermilion, salmon and/or buff: 'Girona' (1936), 'C o n d e s s a d e S á s t a g o' (1 9 3 2), 'Talisman' (1929), and 'Gruss an Coberg' (1927). And then we have the reds, which are dependably often more fragrant than other colors, the following being dark crimson: 'Crimson Glory' (1 9 3 5), 'Barcelona' (1932), 'Etoile de Hollande' (1919) and 'Hadley' (1914), all with a strong damask rose perfume.

But one need not have a grandparent to grow even older fragrantly complex heritage or antique or just old garden roses - of the 18th and 19th centuries, many of which are still available. Inhale "Celsiana", 'Marie Louise', or 'Triginta-petala' (Kazanlik), the latter rose for centuries used to make rose oil, exuding a damask scent. 'Louise Odier', 'Mme Isaac Periere' and 'Zephirine Drouhin' waft the aroma of raspberries. 'Queen of Denmark' suggests doses of damask and lemon, 'Mrs John Laing' damask and parsley, 'Mme Hardy' damask and marigold, 'Blush Noisette' cloves,

'Marechal Neil' strawberries, 'Perle d'Or' nasturtiums, 'Souvenir de la Malmaison' apple and cloves - yet none quite as simple as my comparisons; these scents predominate but there is invariably something more to the complex perfume. And there are 'Baronne Prevost', 'La Reine', 'Reine des Violettes' and 'Sombreuil' to name a few of my favorites, and hundreds more with fragrance so strong and delicious one is tempted to sleep on a bed of such roses if not make a feast of them.

Do keep in mind that not everyone's sense of smell is equal. Furthermore, most roses are the most intensely fragrant in the morning when their petals begin to warm. Warmth and sunshine usually increase the scent. A rose delightfully fragrant in morning sun may emit only a weak scent in the late afternoon. Fragrance varies in staying power; some scents, such as citrus, evaporate more quickly than others, such as clove or damask. Moist soil promotes fragrance as well. And there are roses that become more fragrant when cut.

Why are rose fragrance so wonderful, so lusciously pleasing, so uplifting, so memorable? Why does rose fragrance matter to so many rose lovers?

Smells are unavoidable. You can pinch your nostrils closed only so long. Smells are linked to breath. Breath is life. Scent taps our memories and our emotions. Because smell is the sense more commonly neglected, to us it makes us more human; we then employ

all of our five senses, all of what makes us sensate human beings. In fact, various studies have shown that olfactory impressions are the first to register themselves in the human brain. Smell, odor, scent is a part of us.

For me the fragrance of a rose reveals the absolute meaning of a rose. What meaning does a rose have without a scent? It may win an award at an exhibit, but when the show is over, generally the rose is tossed away. Thus it has served primarily as a commodity, a thing of use. The success of the rose at a show is coupled with its own destruction. We might as well have gazed at a photo of a rose. At the rose shows I've attended, the fragrance category is among those with the fewest entries. Appearances, not essence, seem to be what matters.

Though I expect a hue and a cry of protest against what I've written in the previous paragraph, I know that I speak not for myself alone. For some of us rosarians, the beauty of a rose without scent symbolizes the aesthetics of illusion, a promise meant to be broken. Thus we bow our heads, expectant, into a lovely rose but recoil in disappointment (*continued on page 4*)

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Coming Soon

**April 23: Bob Mucica
Tools in the Garden**

**April 11:
SFVRS Show 1:00—4:00 p.m.
Sepulveda Garden Ctr., Encino**

**June 6:
Descanso Garden Tour**

**July 18: Suzanne Horn,
LadyRedLHW@aol.com
LA Arboretum
Consulting Rosarian School**

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Sunshine Chair: Nell August
Online Information: Earl Holst
Webmistress: Penni Tyler

Fragrance Matters - conclusion

and dismay - no scent. A promise unfilled.

And so I love old roses. I can rely on most of them producing a fragrance, if not in their petals, then in their stamens or even their foliage. Some old roses, like certain gallicas, may have a scent that is weak in flower, but when dried the fragrance is potpourri-powerful and long-lasting. To breathe into and inhale such roses is to feel alive. Scent is the essence of a rose, the attar of its beauty. Fragrance matters.

Darrell g. h. Schramm

"It is a golden maxim to cultivate the garden for the nose, and the eyes will take care of themselves."

~ Robert Louis Stevenson

"Give me odorous at sunrise a garden of beautiful flowers where I can walk undisturbed." ~ Walt Whitman

"The greatest gift of a garden is the restoration of the five senses."

~ Hanna Rion



'Radiance'
(above) and
Talisman'
(below)



Two Fragrant Roses



Hospitality thanks go to Jackie Hoffman, Barbara Drury, Lisa Bischel, Teresa Reese, Maria Mosher, Carol Russell, Diane Macpherson, Jessie Monk, Chiyoko Tanger, Roz Thébaud. Paula Crutchley, and Doris O'Connell.