

# THE ROSE PETAL

A MEMBER OF THE AMERICAN ROSE SOCIETY



## Calendar

- **GPBRS Virtual meeting**  
Speaker CRAIG DORSCHER
- **DEEP SOUTH DISTRICT**  
virtual meeting Sat. March 27, 10-2
- **MOUNTS PLANT SALE**  
April 24, 25 (volunteers needed) see p. 19
- **GPBRS PICNIC**  
June 5 details p. 5

## Inside this issue:

1. President's letter
2. Maria Wolfe - Craig Dorschel: Bio
- 3,4. Details of Deep South District Mid-to Winter virtual meeting
5. GPBRS Picnic details
6. Free Master Gardener classes online
- 8,9,10,11 Research on our favorite amendments
12. FREE ARS trial membership
13. Bd. Of Directors, Consulting Rosarians
- 14-16 (cont.) Soil amendments
17. Beauty
18. Meeting instructions, membership application

## A Message from our Presidents, Debbie and Geoff Coolidge



Happy March to our fellow rose growers. We are helping out again with running the meetings. Let's all hope and pray that in September we can meet in person. We are fortunate to have these zoom meetings but in person is so much better. What a great program last month! We really enjoyed Victor's program on growing roses and companion plants. What an outstanding garden he has! We have known him for several years and had no idea. For those that missed his program maybe we can get him to come back and do it again in the fall when we meet again. Maria and Bill have been hard at work lining up programs; we can't thank you guys enough. This has been a rough year but we are all getting through it. Please renew your membership if you haven't yet. We need to keep this group going and growing.

Debbie and Geoff



Maria Says: ***Our speaker for the March GPBRS virtual meeting will be Craig Dorschel.***

Craig is a Master Rosarian, Horticulture Judge and Arrangement Judge. He is currently serving as Regional Director for Region 0 (New England, New Jersey and Quebec), is serving as National Chair of Arrangement Judges and has previously served as District Director for the Yankee District. Craig has made numerous presentations including recent national webinars as part of an online horticulture judging seminar and an online consulting rosarian school.



St. Patrick Hybrid Tea



*Happy St. Patrick's Day*



FYI - The Deep South District is the district of the American Rose Society to which our society belongs, along with 23 rose societies in Florida, Georgia, and Alabama. The mid-winter meeting is an annual event, usually held in Gainesville, FL. It's a great experience, as there are top rosarians from all over the country as speakers. There are also vendors for roses, fertilizers, and other rose related items. For obvious reasons, the meeting this year will be held on Zoom, and you are invited to attend.



Join us for our first VIRTUAL Mid-Winter Meeting for the Deep South District of the American Rose Society. We will kick things off at 10 a.m. ET and will have a fun time with news, guest speakers and our annual awards presentations. Do not miss this opportunity to re-connect with so many of your rose friends from around the Deep South District.

### **Schedule of Events:**

- 10:00 – Intro & Zoom features – Chris VanCleave (co-host)
- 10:15 – Welcome and ARS Update – Cindy Dale, DSD Director
- 10:45 – Mark Windham – Rose Diseases
- 11:30 – Break
- 11:45 – Suzanne Horn – David Austin Roses
- 12:30 – DSD Photography Awards – Paul Columbo
- 1:00 – DSD Awards – Cindy Dale
- 2:00 -- Dismiss

See Page 4 for instructions on how to join the meeting.

Please click the link below to join the meeting at the appropriate time in your area.

You may join using a laptop/desktop or your mobile device if you have the Zoom software downloaded.

Most updated devices have built in speakers and microphones, you can however, use the dial-in numbers listed for audio. If you select this option, please mute your viewing device to prevent feedback on the microphone.

Topic: Deep South District – Mid-Winter Meeting

Time: Mar 27, 2021 10:00 AM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87017280397>

Meeting ID: 870 1728 0397

### **One tap mobile**

+19292056099,,87017280397# US (New York)

+13017158592,,87017280397# US (Washington DC)

Dial by your location

+1 929 205 6099 US (New York)

+1 301 715 8592 US (Washington DC)

+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

+1 669 900 6833 US (San Jose)

+1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)

+1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)

Meeting ID: 870 1728 0397



# A PICNIC IN THE ROSE GARDEN

Hosted by: The Greater Palm Beach Rose Society

## JOIN US

We will be hosting a picnic at the home of Mike and Pat Becker, where their garden display of 120 rose bushes, rare palm trees, hibiscus, plumerias and desert rose plants will not disappoint!

The GPBRS will provide the hamburgers and buns, and we are asking you to bring a side dish.

## FLOWERS • FOOD • FUN

**JUNE  
5**

Event will begin at 11 AM

This event is FREE to GPBRS members and their families.

We welcome guests and prospective members for a charge of \$5.00 per person.

**1119 SW Rose Apple Court Port St. Lucie, FL 34987**

RSVP to Maria Wolfe at [tcacad\\_registrar@yahoo.com](mailto:tcacad_registrar@yahoo.com) with the side dish you would like to bring, and so that your name will be left at the gate.

PLEASE RSVP BY MAY 28, 2021

## A LOOK AT A FREE MASTER GARDENER PROGRAM (unofficial)

Dear Members, I received an interesting letter from Jim Hodson, of a nursery called “Fast Growing Trees” which can be found online. The following is an excerpt from that letter. I’ve clicked on the links below, and what he’s offering is a Master Gardeners’ program at a fairly basic level. The curriculum seems very good, and what I read was well explained, for the most part. It’s apparently free, very well presented, and should at the least be of interest to gardeners. I didn’t see anything about offering certification as a master gardener, in fact I think it’s encouraging people to contact their own state extension service for that level of study. The letter is self-explanatory, and I’m taking it at face value. I didn’t find anything specific to growing roses, but their website offers rose plants for sale among many other shrubs, plants and trees.

It looks to me like a great resource for people who want to learn more about growing things, but can’t spare the time or expense to actually enroll in an official program. It’s also a smart public relations tool to encourage folks to understand their garden. It’s worth a look, if you’re not already certified as a MG.

Kathy

*Jim says: “I am working with Fast Growing Trees to announce their new educational series on Master Gardening. The organization recognizes the need to create additional awareness of the Master Gardener programs offered in each state as well as to provide similar free, self-paced gardening curriculum to those who might not otherwise engage in a formal Master Gardener program due to the cost and time commitments they require. To that end, the organization has created a great resource for both groups of gardening enthusiasts.*

*To promote awareness and enrollment in formal Master Gardener programs in each state, the Master Gardening Resource answers the most common questions regarding Master Gardeners and the programs required to become one. It includes a comprehensive directory of Cooperative Extension Services in each state so that visitors can get additional information about their state’s Master Gardener program and hopefully enroll. However, the feature we are most excited about is the free Master Gardening Curriculum resource that contains much of the content covered in a typical Master Gardener program while allowing the user to learn at their own pace.*

*I would like to request that you share with your members a link to our Master Gardener Resource Center home page (<https://www.fast-growing-trees.com/pages/master-gardeners>) or directly to our free, self-paced Master Gardening Curriculum Online (<https://www.fast-growing-trees.com/pages/master-gardening-course>), perhaps on your GPBRS web site’s Links/Resources page at <http://www.gpbs.org/resources.htm>.*

*Please let me know if the above does not provide you with the information needed to review and consider this resource for sharing. I can be reached via email at [jhodson@fast-growing-trees.com](mailto:jhodson@fast-growing-trees.com). If you would prefer to discuss this by phone, my direct number is (704) 942-4600.”*

Another online resource, courtesy of The American Rose Society, is the RoseChatPodcast. It's informative and entertaining. Try it out at [RoseChatPodcast.com](http://RoseChatPodcast.com)



Our former first Vice-President, Maria Wolfe, has lined up a *wonderful* series of online speakers, including the President of the American Rose Society himself, Bob Martin, from southern California. This month's speaker, Craig Dorschel, is standing for election as Vice President of the ARS. So in this age of technology, we are getting some terrifically knowledgeable presenters. The meetings really are easy to tune in, but we understand some members may not feel comfortable with the technology.. If you need help getting ready for the meeting, please call me or Maria ahead of time and we will try to guide you.

Our numbers are listed along with other board members on the final page of this newsletter. I will try to help you get online. These meetings have gotten better with practice. Don't give up on us!! Next month, our speaker will be Bob Martin, the President of the American Rose Society.

Remember, in order to have a Rose Society, we need to have members, or, like an untended rose, the society will wither and disappear. Let's not have that happen!

If you would like to learn how to arrange speakers for our. Meetings, Maria will be more than happy to help you. She has compiled a list of willing speakers for video presentations, from all over the country. And she must leave her position in May, and needs a replacement. This person would become our new first Vice President. We NEED you! And will give you all the help you need.



## Nutrient Research, Scientific Research on some of our Favorite Amendments

by Carolyn Elgar, Orange County Rose Society, Master Rosarian

This article was originally published in the March 2020 Rose Gazette, and was copied from this month's "Roses and You", the ARS online publication. Photos by Rita Perwich



After hard pruning roses in the late winter/early spring, the rosarian's thoughts turn to ideas about organic additions to the garden that will enrich the soil and promote more growth and flowers. Surveying the literature and the internet about rose culture results in a number of suggestions about how to give your roses an extra boost or special treat. But how does the gardener decide

Continued p.9



what to add and when? Plenty of rosarians will give you advice, and the companies that make these products will publish lots of positive information on their websites to encourage you to buy them. Probably the best indicator is also the most factual one: research conducted by scientists.

But research is so boring and hard to read, you say. Well, I will try to make this as painless as possible. Here's a review of some popular organic amendments and fertilizers, along with what the research supports.



### **Alfalfa Meal/Tea**

Alfalfa as a fertilizer provides a number of nutrients to your plants; it is a good source of slow-release organic nitrogen. However, the ingredient that makes alfalfa unique is its growth stimulant, triacontanol, a compound that has been proven to increase cell division and produce large root and shoot mass. Research on this originated in 1977 when a professor at Michigan State University, Stanley Ries, published an article claiming that alfalfa meal and chloroform extracts of the meal increased the growth and yield of several plant species. Since that time a number of studies have confirmed that triacontanol in alfalfa and alfalfa water extracts stimulate plant growth, even in the dark, independent of photosynthesis.

There are a few caveats to consider here. First, the studies concentrated mostly on the compound itself, rather than the alfalfa that contains it. Triacontanol itself is available as a liquid additive that can be sprayed on plants or used as a drench; apparently the compound is difficult to extract or combine with other additives. But Ries's initial experiments relied on alfalfa plants as a source of triacontanol, and we know alfalfa contains this chemical substance. Alfalfa meal is ground and, perhaps when well-watered in, the triacontanol may become available. Another concern of some scientists is that alfalfa meal may make alkaline soils more alkaline. However, the studies do not show this as a permanent effect and the pH levels did not increase to damaging levels. Using alfalfa meal as a tea may reduce this effect, and it gives the meal time to ferment and perhaps more effectively release its triacontanol.

Continued p. 10

## Earthworm castings

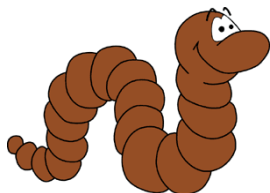
Worm castings are what earthworms leave after digesting food and soil. Worms feed on many forms of organic matter in the soil including plant parts, animal and insect remains, bacteria, and fungi. When these materials pass through the worm's gut, their nutrients

are changed into a form that is more available for plant uptake, such as the nitrate form of nitrogen, soluble potassium, and exchangeable phosphorus and calcium. The castings hold two or three times their weight in water, making its retention in the soil another benefit. The surface area of the castings is larger than that of soil particles and supports beneficial microbial activity.



Research at Ohio State University that compared the effects of the fertilizer components that were the same as those contained in worm castings found that these components did not produce the same growth responses as the castings, leading to the assumption that the castings produced some kind of hormone-induced activity or that some kind of growth regulators were involved. The growth responses of plants from vermicompost appears more like 'hormone-induced activity' associated with the high levels of humic acids and humates in vermicompost rather than boosted by high levels of plant-available nutrients. (Soil Ecology Laboratory, Ohio State University)

University plant growth research at Ohio State, Cornell University, U.C. Davis, and at other agriculture organizations have shown that plants treated with worm castings had increased plant size and bloom quantity and quality. The optimum application rate is a ratio of 10 to 20 percent castings to soil. A larger application did not improve results.



Finally, additional testing has shown using worm castings decreases the number of aphids, mealy bugs, and other arthropod pests. Earthworms produce a high level of chitinase enzymes in their castings. Chitinase dissolves the chitin in insect skeletons. Insects can detect the presence of chitinase in the soil and avoid it. Thus worm castings can work as an effective pest repellent.

## Humic acid

Humic acid is the carbon-rich material that remains after years of decomposition of living organisms such as plants, insects, and animals. It is produced in peat and coal. It occurs naturally as a liquid, but when the liquid is dehydrated, it leaves humates that contain the same compounds and have the same benefits as the liquid. Humic acid and humates improve the cation exchange capacity of the soil; this interaction of positive and negative ions allows it to hold onto nutrients. The crumb structure of the soil

improves which enhances water retention and oxygen distribution. Humic

Cont. p. 11

acid can buffer high or low pH in

the soil, making nutrients and trace elements that might be bound in the soil more available to the plant. As a result, photosynthesis is improved, increasing the sugars in the plant and promoting growth.

Numerous research studies conducted in the last 25 years have found that applying humic acid to the soil helps break up compacted soils, enhances water retention, improves root development, stimulates the development of beneficial microflora populations, and chelates nutrients, such as iron, so that the plant can absorb them. Various micronutrients are further complexed with humic acid to form chelates - zinc, calcium, iron, and others... humic acid had beneficial effects on nutrient uptake by plants and was particularly important for the transport and availability of micronutrients. (Journal of Plant Nutrition, 2008)

## **Mycorrhizae**

Mycorrhizal fungi create a symbiotic relationship with a plant's roots. Because the filaments that this fungus produces as it grows from the roots are finer than root hairs and grow further into the soil, a plant's access to water and nutrients is increased. In exchange, the fungi feed on sugars from the plant. Around 15 to 20 years ago mycorrhizal fungi were considered the best new thing for roses; nurseries offered expensive inoculants to apply to the soil. Since that time information has become available to the home gardener about the fungi's fragility. Disturbing the soil and using chemical fertilizers will kill this beneficial web. Soils high in phosphorus, the nutrient that many rosarians use for increased bloom, will significantly reduce the amounts of this fungi.

The fungi are plant specific and are most beneficial in poor or unfertilized soils. General opinion now is that our garden soils already contain many of the nutrients that added mycorrhizae would capture; in addition, the fungi native to your soil may already exist as well as it can in your pampered garden. any balanced organic fertilizers now contain a combination of different mycorrhizal fungi; buying a special inoculant is not necessary.

## **Seaweed/Kelp**

Seaweed amendments can be liquid or solid, in emulsions or meals. The major nutrient that seaweed has the most of is potassium. But the special thing about seaweed is the growth stimulant it contains; in addition, seaweed has many trace minerals (over 60), amino acids, and vitamins that promote plant and soil health. The carbohydrates in seaweed provide food for beneficial microorganisms. Liquid seaweed can act as a soil conditioner, improving its texture and water retention.

Research supports the biostimulant effects of seaweed, and it has been used in crop production. Several university studies have demonstrated the impressive results of using seaweed. The wide range of growth responses induced by seaweed extracts implies the presence of more than one group of plant growth promoting substance/hormones. (Journal of Plant Growth Regulation, 2009)R

Please go to p. 14

## Cool Roses



Roses budded onto Fortuniana rootstock ... "The Exhibitors' Choice"

Modern, Miniature and OGRs

**One of the largest selections of Fortuniana grafted Minis and Minifloras**

**Custom Budding on Fortuniana by request**

Newest must-have roses from the top hybridizers

**We have Fortuniana budded Delbard Roses and David Austin English Roses!**

*www.coolroses.com* Ph: 561-310-8508

E-mail: *info@coolroses.com*



## Benefits of ARS Membership

You can renew (or join) online at: <http://www.rose.org/join-renew/>. Consider taking advantage of their four month, \$10 trial offer.

- Five issues of the *American Rose* magazine plus the end-of-the-year issue of the *American Rose Annual*. These bi-monthly 84-page issues, devoted exclusively to roses and rose culture, feature informative articles and beautiful color photography for beginners and experienced rose growers alike. View a [free issue](#) online.
- The annual issue of *The Handbook for Selecting Roses*, a rose-buying guide to over 3,000 roses.
- Members-only online access to Modern Roses Database with information on every rose variety.
- Online access to five quarterly bulletins, the *Mini/Miniflora Bulletin*, *Old Garden Rose & Shrub Gazette*, *Rose Arrangers' Bulletin*, *Rose Exhibitors' Forum* and *Singularly Beautiful Roses* are available online to ARS members only.
- [Partner](#) program offers discounts at various merchants with new partners being added continuously.



**JOIN TODAY!**

ONLY \$10 FOR A 4-MONTH TRIAL!  
Call 1-800-637-6534 or visit [www.ars.org](http://www.ars.org)  
New full memberships (\$49) receive a  
**FREE** rosebush from Witherspoon Rose Culture!

**JOIN THE ARS FOR JUST \$10!**  
**FOUR-MONTH TRIAL MEMBERSHIP**  
**NOW AVAILABLE!**

*You'll receive:*

- Free advice from Consulting Rosarians.
- Free or reduced garden admissions, a \$25 value after just 3 uses.
- Free online access to four quarterly bulletins, a \$45 value.
- 2 issues of American Rose magazine, \$16 value.
- Discounts of up to 30% at merchant partners.



**BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2021****Co-Presidents.** Debbie & Geoff Coolidge

Debbie 561-313-0077, Geoff 561-310-8508

[coolidge38@gmail.com](mailto:coolidge38@gmail.com)**Past President,** Bill Langford. 561-309-8736[whl2@prodigy.net](mailto:whl2@prodigy.net)**1<sup>st</sup> Vice President.** **Position vacant**

.....

**2<sup>nd</sup> Vice-President,** Membership

Nakita Daniels 352-246-3334

[nsdaniels7@gmail.com](mailto:nsdaniels7@gmail.com)**Secretary** MaryBeth Hight.**Treasurer.** Bob Ewart. 561-445-2483[jinnicky@bobsown.net](mailto:jinnicky@bobsown.net)**Hospitality.** Jacquie Perry 561-881-5479[jp4christ@bellsouth.net](mailto:jp4christ@bellsouth.net)**Directors:**

Patty Beasley. 561-267-5316

Mike Becker. 817-522-2970

Maria Wolfe. 561-386-4903

???

**Newsletter Editor.** Kathy Rose 561-665-0535[kathleenarose@gmail.com](mailto:kathleenarose@gmail.com)**Website** Sharon Chapnick Miller 561-394-4222[sharon@FLsoft.com](mailto:sharon@FLsoft.com)**Consulting Rosarians**

Our consulting Rosarians are appointed by the American Rose Society after spending years growing roses and being tested on their overall knowledge of roses and their care. They freely share this knowledge with anyone who loves and wants to grow roses.

Debbie Coolidge 561-313-0077

[geoffcoolidge@comcast.net](mailto:geoffcoolidge@comcast.net)

Geoff Coolidge. 561-310-8508

[geoffcoolidge@comcast.net](mailto:geoffcoolidge@comcast.net)Bill Langford. 561-309-8736 [WHL2@prodigy.net](mailto:WHL2@prodigy.net)

\*Mike Becker. 817-522-2970

[becker.mike@att.net](mailto:becker.mike@att.net)

\*Master Rosarian

**Disclaimer: While the advice and information in this newsletter is believed to be true and accurate at the time of publication, neither the authors nor the editor accept any legal responsibility for any errors or omissions that may have been made. We make no warranty, expressed or implied with regard to the material contained in**

Welcome New Member Victor

Lazzari! Victor is a garden designer and photographer. He is currently writing a book on Rose gardens in South Florida.

## Seaweed (continued from p. 11)



The same studies determined that drought stressed plants treated with seaweed extract and humic acid increased their root mass by 21-68%. Researchers found that seaweed products create abiotic stress tolerance in plants. Although the action of the compounds that do this and increase plant growth are not clearly known, there is no doubt about seaweed's benefits.

Another interesting aspect to the research on seaweed is the discovery of the inhibiting impact of seaweed on root-knot nematodes. Nematodes are one of the rose lovers' major frustration; because the damage occurs under the

ground, it is hard to diagnose, other than observing the weakening of the plant. Seaweeds... showed more or less similar suppressive effect on root rotting fungi and root knot nematode to chemical fungicides (Topsin-M) and nematicide (carbofuran). (Journal of Applied Botany and Food Quality, 2011) Application of seaweed can result in decreased levels of female nematodes and their eggs.



## Fish Emulsion

Fish emulsion is made by processing the remains of fish products, grinding them into a slurry, and then straining the liquid. Its NPK is around 5-2-2, making it a good source of organic nitrogen. This is multiplied by the fact that the nitrogen in fish emulsion is quickly converted, for an organic fertilizer, into a form (mineralization) that the plant's roots can absorb, around two weeks after application. Fish emulsion may also contain micronutrients and whatever trace elements the manufacturer adds.



The research on fish emulsion is ambivalent. Most of the studies are done for the purpose of comparing it to chemical sources of nitrogen, in hopes of using it as a substitute that is organic and works well in poor soil. Many of the more recent studies have been based in third world countries where soil is not fertile and chemical fertilizer is expensive. For example, a paper published in Ethiopia in 2013 concluded the yield harvested from tomato and onion treated with fish offal's fertilizer is as comparable as that of chemical fertilizer. (African Journal of Agricultural Research) Other studies determined that fish emulsion provided benefits in some ways but not in others. One could conclude that fish emulsion is no better than any other organic source of nitrogen. But the relatively quick mineralization rate of the nitrogen in it makes fish

emulsion a good choice when you want to give your plants a quick shot of organic nitrogen that won't burn roots.

## Gypsum

Gypsum is calcium sulfate, a naturally occurring mineral. The benefits of gypsum are highly dependent on the type of soil in your garden. Although gypsum has been considered a soil amendment, its real impact lies in the fact that it is high in calcium and sulfur. Both of these elements can upset the balance of nutrients in the soil if it has too much of them. Soils that are heavy in clay, weathered, or high in sodium benefit from gypsum application. High sodium levels will reduce the soil's ability to absorb water and make the soil more compact. By absorbing sodium gypsum makes the soil more water absorbent and permeable. But most home gardens do not have these levels of sodium in their soil.

Although it is high in sulfur, this sulfur is not the elemental sulfur that acidifies soil. Thus gypsum has very little impact on the pH of the soil. Gypsum is more useful in agricultural applications in large growing fields than in the home garden. Although it may not impact pH, it will add calcium to the soil that will have negative effects if the soil already has adequate quantities of this element. Soils in low-precipitation regions tend to be neutral or basic in pH with considerably high concentrations of Ca... Typically, gypsum is not necessary in such regions due to the high native Ca content. (Advances in Agronomy, 2017) If soil compacting is a problem, the home gardener can remedy this by adding compost, a substance that will not affect the balance of nutrients in the garden.

## Epsom Salts

What better way to end this review than to look at the controversial topic of Epsom salts and its effect on plants. Exhibitors and organic gardeners habitually put down Epsom salts to give their roses a little more color with its magnesium content or encourage basal breaks. Its use is advised by many gardening magazines and websites. It has been recommended by gardeners and professionals for years. These word-of-mouth endorsements from experts may be enough to convince a rose lover to use it on their roses.



Once again, overabundance of this nutrient will affect the uptake of others. Chances are your garden soil has enough magnesium; it may not be available to the plant because of high levels of another nutrient, such as potassium. Adding more will not get more magnesium to the plant. Although sandy and acidic soils may be magnesium deficient, a garden lover's fertilized soil probably isn't, and if it is, again compost will help level things out without affecting nutrient balance. And if that is not enough to convince you, read the following.

A soil test is absolutely required before using this chemical. (Washington State University)

Epsom salt has not been demonstrated through research to help roses grow or bloom better. (Kellogs Garden)

## The Bottom Line

The above reference to the necessity of a soil test is very relevant when using amendments that contain plant nutrients. Soil pH has the most direct effect on plants' nutrient absorption, and high levels of nutrients or micronutrients, with the possible exception of nitrogen, will inhibit the effectiveness of others.

There's a balanced, chemical, ionic dance going on in your soil. Other factors, such as beneficial microbes and bacteria contribute to soil health as well. When it comes to nutrient interaction, chemistry is a major factor contributing to success or failure. It's a complex, natural harmony.

Although we want to pamper our roses and produce the largest blooms, we could inadvertently become our garden's biggest enemy if we try to change things without the proper information. Before you add potential unneeded nutrients to your soil, check out what is already there with a soil test. But you can still add good things to the garden that will enhance your roses' growth and development. Worm castings, humic acid, kelp, and fish emulsion won't change your soil pH and have been researched and consistently found to have positive, nondestructive benefits for the garden. You can't go wrong with them. Make sure to read the directions on the product you choose for the proper application. There's no point in using more than your need and it won't benefit your plants. ✨

References available upon request.

Product	Benefits	Research Results	Recommendation
Worm castings	mineralizes nutrients; improves soil texture and water retention; increases microbic activity; contains growth hormones	Very positive	Use it
Humic acid	improves nutrient retention in soil; improves soil texture and water retention; chelates minerals for improved uptake	Very positive	Use it
Seaweed/kelp	60 trace elements; growth stimulant; nematode suppression	Very positive	Use it
Fish emulsion	mineralizes nutrients quickly; 5% nitrogen	Ambivalent	Use it for nitrogen
Alfalfa	contains triacontanol, a growth stimulant;	Positive for triacontanol	Other things are better
Mycorrhizae	increases roots' nutrient and water uptake	Good for poor soils	Get it in organic fertilizer
Gypsum	contains calcium and sulfur; decreases soil sodium	Use for calcium	Get a soil test first
Epsom salts	contains magnesium sulfate	Has no effect on plant	Get a soil test first

Photos by Rita Perwich



"Never lose an opportunity of seeing anything beautiful, for beauty is God's handwriting."

~ Ralph Waldo Emerson



'Festival Fanfare', photo by Rich Baer

From "Roses and You", an American Rose Society online publication

**Greater Palm Beach Rose  
Society VIRTUAL Meeting, Monday  
March 22 at 7:00 (EDT)**

**Please join my meeting from your  
computer, tablet or smartphone.**

[https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/  
944207453](https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/944207453)

**You can also dial in using your  
phone.**

United States: +1 (224) 501-3412

**Access Code:** 944-207-453

New to GoToMeeting? Get the app  
now and be ready when your first  
meeting starts: [GoToMeeting  
Download](#)

**ROSES ON THE WWW**

ARS—[www.rose.org](http://www.rose.org)  
[helpmefind.com/roses](http://helpmefind.com/roses)  
[www.heritagerosefoundation.org](http://www.heritagerosefoundation.org)  
[redneckrosarian.com](http://redneckrosarian.com)  
[rosegardeningworld.com](http://rosegardeningworld.com)  
[thegardendiary.com](http://thegardendiary.com) (roses & companions)  
[theheritagerosesgroup.org](http://theheritagerosesgroup.org)  
[worldrose.org](http://worldrose.org)  
[www.gardendesign.com/roses/care.html](http://www.gardendesign.com/roses/care.html)  
 Rose Gardening Guru - [planetnatural.com](http://planetnatural.com)  
 Quiet Hut - [quiethut.com/rose-gardening/](http://quiethut.com/rose-gardening/)  
 Rose Magazine - [rosemagazine.com](http://rosemagazine.com)

**GREATER PALM BEACH ROSE  
SOCIETY 2019 MEMBERSHIP  
APPLICATION**

NAME\_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

CITY\_\_\_\_\_

STATE \_\_\_\_\_

ZIP\_\_\_\_\_

PHONE

(\_\_\_\_\_)\_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL

\_\_\_\_\_

OCCUPATION\_\_\_\_\_

(optional)

BIRTHDAY

(MO.)\_\_\_\_\_ (DAY)\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_ NEW MEMBER \_\_\_ RENEWAL Choose  
one type of membership below:

\_\_\_ANNUAL MEMBERS DUES : \$18.00

\_\_\_ CONTRIBUTING MEMBERS : \$25.00

(Membership period runs from January to  
December)

**Make checks payable to: GPBRS and  
mail with this form to:**

Bob Ewart, 445 NW 10<sup>th</sup> St., Boca Raton FL  
33432-2542

MOUNTS BOTANICAL GARDEN  
WILL BE HOLDING ITS SPRING PLANT SALE  
APRIL 24, 25, 2021  
PLEASE CALL or e-mail DEBBIE COOLIDGE TO VOLUNTEER  
[debbiecoolidge1957@icloud.com](mailto:debbiecoolidge1957@icloud.com). (561)313-0077  
Your help is needed!

**From Adriane's garden this month:**



**Belinda's Dream**

Thanks Adriane! Just beautiful!

Any photos from members gladly received!