

THE ROSE PETAL

A MEMBER OF THE AMERICAN ROSE SOCIETY



CALENDAR

December 6, 6:00 pm HOLIDAY PARTY, Mounts Auditorium. Bring your favorite dish for a real old-fashioned pot luck dinner! Call Debbie if questions 561-313-0077

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A Message from our Presidents, Debbie and Geoff Coolidge



Happy Holidays! Can you believe the holidays are already upon us?

We will be having our annual Christmas party on December 6th at 6 pm. It will be held this year in our monthly meeting place, the auditorium at the Mounts. It will be a potluck so bring your favorite dish to share. We will be having Bill's famous ham. Please call me at 561-313-0077 and let me know how many in your party are attending and what you are bringing.

We will also be collecting toys for children in need. There will be some nice gift baskets to try and win in our raffle, so be sure and bring some cash. It's not too late to put a basket together to donate. Also if you have some roses to share please bring an arrangement for the table. Doors will open at 4:30 to decorate the room.

Thank you to Art Wade from Rose Petals Nursery for the informative program on antique roses!

Membership for 2022 is due for renewal -- we are requesting to have \$40 per individual (or couple) - \$18 for membership and the remainder for trophies for the rose show in April. We were not able to have a Rose Show the last two years, and we need your help to make our April 2022 show a success. It will be held at the Mall at Wellington Green, where we expect to it to be seen by many more people than our past shows See you all next week!

Debbie and Geoff

HOLIDAY PARTY

Monday December 6, at **6 p.m.**

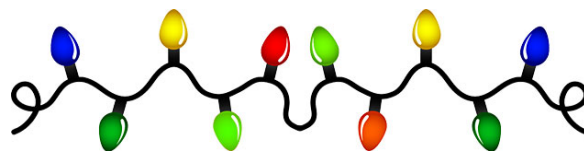
Mounts Auditorium



As in the past, all our members will bring a dish so that we may celebrate the holiday season together. Bill Langford has promised to bring the main dish, and the rest of us will each bring our favorite dish to share, for a real pot-luck surprise! Let's kick off the Holiday Season with a shared meal, and a chance just to visit and get to know one another better.

If you wish, you may also bring an unwrapped gift for a child under the age of 12, in the spirit of the season. Friends and family are most welcome. Let Bill or Debbie know whether you will be attending, and if you're bringing a guest, so that we will be prepared to greet everyone.

SEE YOU THEN !



Phone numbers: Bill Langford. 561-309-8736

Debbie Coolidge. 561-313-0077

CONSULTING ROSARIAN CORNER - Winter care of Roses

by Bill Langford

If you grew roses in the northern climates, you would have already cut your last bloom weeks ago. Here in South Florida, in December and January, you should be planning to cut some of the best-looking blooms you may have not seen since last April.

The mild weather we are now experiencing is great for roses, and you should also see fewer bugs.

Here are some actions to take now to keep those beautiful blooms coming until it is time to prune in early February. (So, you will have roses for our April 9, 2022 Rose Show):

1. **Water** - While you do not need to water as often as you did in the summer, you still need to monitor the rainfall and check your irrigation system to make sure it is working properly. I grow most of my roses in pots, which have to be watered daily in the summer months, but in late fall and winter I set my timer to water every other day. If it rains, I put it on a delay setting. Remember though to always water prior to fertilizing.
2. **Fertilizing** - If it has been more than a month since you last fertilized, you should do it now. You want to give your roses a quick boost to get a nice flush of blooms before you prune. It might be best to use a liquid or a granular fertilizer. I usually recommend organics, but they take longer to break down, especially when you're experiencing cooler weather. A liquid organic might be a good choice, if you can find it. "Mills Easy Feed" is an example of this (millsmix.com).

3. **Insects** - Spider mites remain active. They thrive in dry conditions, but you can control them with a hard spray of water to the undersides of the leaves. If you have leaves that are a light green, or grayish, shake the leaf over a white sheet of paper. Using a magnifying glass, you will see the tiny spider mites. If you have an infestation, do the water spray every other day for three treatments. See the photo showing leaves with spider mites (on right). Wrinkled leaves with brown marks, can mean



Winter care (cont.)

you might have Chilli thrips. As the weather cools down, the thrip activity will decrease. If you need to treat them, the best choice is *Conserve*, or for smaller gardens, *Conserve Naturalyte*. This insecticide is effective on Chili thrips and is less harmful to beneficial insects than other products, but you should apply it early or late in the day, when bees are not active.

4. **Cutting your blooms** - If you give some care to your rose bushes now, you will have some beautiful blooms to cut in about 5 - 6 weeks. Unlike in summer, when you want to retain the foliage to help keep the bushes cool, it is okay to cut long stems now. When you cut, do so just above a 5-leaf cluster, no more than 1/4" above the bud eye that is at the base of the leaf cluster. If you more than 1/4" of stem is left you often will get dieback that can continue down the stem. See the photo for the best cut location.



IN MEMORIAM Bob Martin

I am shocked and saddened to report that Bob Martin, Immediate Past President of the American Rose Society, who spoke in April 2021 to our members via Come To Meeting, passed away suddenly Friday, November 26, 2021 at his home in Escondido, California.

Bob served as President of the American Rose Society from 2018 to 2021. He was a Master Rosarian, an Accredited Horticultural Judge, and an Accredited Arrangements Judge. Bob was an active rose exhibitor and educator and was the 2006 recipient of the ARS Guy Blake Hedrick, Jr. Award for lifetime achievement in rose exhibiting. In 2009 he was the recipient of the ARS Klima Medal for his lifetime contribution to rose education, and as such addressed the Deep South District convention at their Mid-Winter meeting in Gainesville that year. Several of the GPBRS members at the time had the opportunity to meet him then, and can confirm that he was a great speaker, and, along with Dona, an excellent photographer, always including many photos in his presentations.

Bob was well known as a humorous and effective speaker and rose evangelist, having spoken at 24 American Rose Society national conventions, at district conventions and more than 250 times at rose societies and garden clubs throughout the United States. He was also a prolific writer, having authored more than 700 published articles on roses.

Bob will be greatly missed, and fondly remembered. He generously shared his knowledge of rose gardening, his enthusiasm and his humor with us all.

Our deep condolences go to his wife, Dona, his family, and many friends. Cards may be sent to Dona Martin, 3291 Old Oak Tree Lane, Escondido, CA 92026-8416



Bob and Dona in their garden in Escondido.

Getting Started with Arranging

By Nancy Redington

Reproduced from AMERICAN ROSE - rose.org

Traditional Mini Arrangement



What's a good first step for getting involved in rose arranging? There are so many styles and things to learn. It can be overwhelming and intimidating! Any tips for taking the plunge?

You've been encouraged to enter a rose arrangement in the next show and maybe you feel a little out of your element. If this has ever happened to you, you are not the lone ranger.

I can vividly remember the first arrangement I ever entered into a show and at the conclusion of the judging I was totally puzzled by the comments of the judges. I thought it was spectacular display. And it was, but not in the correct way. I hadn't done any reading about entering a show or talked to anyone who had entered a show. I didn't know about what was a Traditional, Modern or Asian Influenced arrangement and the criteria that made them be designated as one style or another. I didn't understand the importance of using the

best possible roses and that my design was to frame and display the roses in the most beautiful way.

Because of this lack of knowledge, and not sure where to find out the requirements, my first attempt at an arrangement was that I was making a display. I had a lot of stuff and not so many roses and the roses were not of great quality. OOPS, that was a disaster. This was back in the 80s when dirt was young, and I didn't

know anything about score cards or the *ARS Guidelines For Judging Rose Arrangements*.

Times have changed. For anyone starting out now, things are so much easier and understandable. That's because our ARS website has a large amount of information through articles written and available in the many issues of the *Rose Arranger's Bulletin* and in the 'online' availability of the *Guidelines For Judging Rose Arrangements*. So my first suggestion to any newbie is to go to rose.org and benefit from this wealth of information that also includes photographs and sketches of various arrangement styles - for free (rose.org - get involved - arranging). One of the best articles ever written about traditional arrangements was written by Kathy Noble and is in the 2001 issue of the *Rose Arranger's Bulletin*. So please use this invaluable source to increase your knowledge. You will find it time well spent.

The other great help is the arrangement community itself. Never hesitate to contact a more experienced arranger for help and ideas and to explain things that are not familiar to you.



Dried mini ready to go...

After that first entry so long ago I was determined to "crack the egg" of arranging and understand what made one arrangement better than another. I asked anyone available at the show what they might think were flaws in my work. Sometimes I agreed with their counsel and sometimes I didn't. But all the input gave me a direction that I eagerly followed.

If you have opportunities to clerk in the arrangement division. Explain to the judge you are working with that you are just starting out and that you would appreciate hearing their thoughts after the judging. Generally, judges, unless they are on a tight schedule, will spend any amount of time with a prospective arranger going through a show after judging is completed and point out the pluses and minuses of any arrangement.

Every rose schedule will list the person in charge of the design division and this is another great contact to get you some personal help. Often you can take your design to them ahead



of time and they will assist you in perfecting any flaws. They will not redo your arrangement but rather will give you options to consider to enhance the good points.

I generally encourage new arrangers to consider entering a traditional style arrangement. Containers are easily found, and the styles are familiar as they are reminiscent of many of the floral displays we see every day.

The other two large styles — Asian Influenced and Modern — will become more easily understood as you work first with the traditional. Venturing into these other two categories is a lot of fun and adds to joy of the artform of arranging.

If I want to do arranging, are there special roses I should consider growing in my garden that work better for doing rose arrangements?

The roses that do best are ones of great substance and will hold water in the petals under stress of being cut and put in a vase. That's the simple answer.

Actually for Big or Standard Arrangements you can use any classification of rose in any arrangement entered in a rose show if the schedule does not limit the classification. Sometimes to make things more difficult, the schedule writer may require a classification such as floribunda or shrub. These specifications are usually only seen in District or National shows. I mentioned big or standard. There is a group of classes that always specifies the use of certain roses. That is what is known as miniature classes. For entries in the miniature division only miniature and miniflora roses can be used. This is exactly the same as the requirements in Horticulture. Mini and miniflora are exhibited in their own division.

But to answer the question, I love to use roses with a medium-size bloom, especially in Traditional Arrangements where gradation of size of bloom from bud size — which is quite

small — to a larger size — which should be exhibition stage or fully open is less than 4-to5 inches in width. The progression from bud to largest bloom should show a gradual progression such as seen on the living plant. OGR roses sometimes have a very limited vase life and show wilting very quickly. So to repeat, a rose that can hold its form and appear fresh for some time in a vase is the best to grow.

For those who have exhibited but have never done rose arrangements, why would/should I want to venture into rose arrangements?

Believe it or not, arranging makes one a better exhibitor of collections. Arranging puts the rose in relationship with other roses. And building a collection is placing the components in a visual plane that enhances the good and minimizes the bad.

It has not been unusual for top horticulture exhibitors to use an arranger to look over their display of perfect blooms and give input on the sequential arrangement in regards to color blending or minute differences in form. Moving the blooms in the proper sequence can make or break an entry.

Wow! My arrangement turned out great! Any tips for taking great photos?

First of all, Congratulations!

Actually, my tip is to get to know your camera first. And take pictures to hone your skill — that is for the proper exposure.

For the photo to be most representative, consider what your eye saw when you looked at the arrangement. Generally consider the midpoint of the photo (where you want to aim your camera) to be slightly lower than half way up the design. Our mind seems to compensate for the consideration of what is the middle. It's like looking at a tree. If you looked any higher than slightly lower than the midpoint, you would see mainly branches and not the trunk with branches.

Also try not to introduce more elements like shadows which can distort the composition by putting more lines and shadows in the background. I have taken all the pictures for this article with my iPad. Just happens that I usually take pictures for documentation of an arrangement and the iPad works well.

When taking pictures, take one with no paper work around it and then a second with any ribbons, entry card, etc. so you have documentation of who did the arrangement, the roses used and how it fared in the judging. (This is more simple than an elaborate note book.) Double check that the information transferred well to the photo.

Which brings me to another point. Take pictures of your arrangement while you are working on it and after you think you have it set just right. The photo won't lie and you really can see the flaws in your work. I will also take a photo with any extra stuff I want to use with the arrangement which will remind me of these extras when I do the actual construction for the show.

Finally , to get started with rose arranging, what are the basics I should gather for my kit to have the basic supplies I will need.

First of all, your horticulture bag. Cloth, pruners, scissors, brush or *Q-Tips* to wipe off any dirt specs, paper, pen. And add to that, extra *Oasis* and a knife to hold blooms, needlepoint holder can also be used, rose tubes (the plastic single tube to hold water) painted either black or dark green. Some kind of a watering can to fill your container and a towel to protect from water spills. That is the minimum. As you get involved, other arrangers will be very willing to show you some tricks that they use in their efforts to create unique designs.

You will find that within the arrangement community, there is much help before, during and after the show to help you enjoy this aspect of our rose hobby. And that feeling of community among the competitors in arranging is another special part of this group of exhibitors. Try us out and see if you didn't just expand your rose hobby by 50 percent.

PHOTOS p. 8, LEFT TO RIGHT: "Having friends over for Chinese " — this will make everyone smile; Traditional Mini Arrangement;

BELOW LEFT: Photo taken too far away, BELOW RIGHT: Right distance, just needs to be cropped.





Happy



Kwaanza!

And A Happy New Year Everyone!

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coolidge38@gmail.com

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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.

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 mail with this form to:**

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 33432-2542