

The Fifth Leaf

Shasta Rose Society
American Rose Society Affiliate

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President's Message

Lesa Lane

I always think of the Rose Society as the 4F Club: Flowers, Fun, Friends and Food Club. We definitely have the most beautiful flowers in the world to worship and adore. The Friendships we make don't have anything to do with class, culture, nationality or religion and can last a lifetime based on the love of the rose. The Fun is in all our interesting club activities with interesting people. And Food is the glue that holds it all together: it wouldn't be a Rose Society without food, especially dessert.

Which brings me to the good news for a fun time: an up-coming rose society event with your friends and lots of tasty food! Mark your calendars for June 22. A Day In A Rose Garden is back this year at Bob and Sandy Parker's villa. We thank them in advance for volunteering without any arm twisting. Co-chairs for the event are Linda Walton and Barbara Pike. They will be needing all our help and will be telling us all about it at the meetings.

A Big Thank You goes out to all the volunteers who helped with pruning the Redding City Hall Rose garden this year. I heard the chili was delicious. I had to miss it to teach a pruning class at Wyntour Gardens. I had about 30 students and invited them all to try out our society. A special note of appreciation to Carol Cowee for getting new brochures printed and delivered to Wyntour Gardens for both Bob Parker and me to hand out to pruning students.

Another Big Thank You to all the members who volunteered with the pruning fund raiser and enjoyed poking around in other peoples' yards. They went to lunch afterwards just to make sure they had the Food part of the 4F Club covered.

Well, I am almost finished pruning my roses. It's taken several weekends and will take several more to do the weeding and prepping for that fantastic first bloom. I actually have quite a few things

blooming despite the rain and cold. Roses are so amazing and resilient. Enjoy yourself in your garden and remember to have fun and some tasty food afterwards.

Easy to Please

Sandy Parker, Master Rosarian



Last spring I was nosing around in the garden section of Home Depot and came across a darling little rose in very full bloom. I set it in the cart just to show Bob when I caught up to him...he always goes to the boring part of the store to get things like sprinkler parts or nails or other unfun stuff. By the time I found him I had decided to buy this little cutie though we don't have enough sun in the garden for the roses we already have!

The rose is called "Easy to Please", and while still at Home Depot we looked it up on "helpmefind". (How did we ever get along without our phones?" We read about it and decided to give it a try. It was bred by Christian Bedard in 2016 and introduced into the U.S. in 2017 as a floribunda. Its blooms are double (17 to 25 petals), and the bush grows about 3' in diameter and up to 5+ feet tall. Ours won't

though because we planted it in a pot so we can keep it on the patio, which is the sunniest place we have.

The blooms are described as Fuchsia color with a lighter reverse but when we bought it was more purple with quite a bit of white in the center. We

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***The Fifth Leaf* Editor**
Barrie Freeman

Shasta Rose Society is a non-profit organization, which is an affiliate of the American Rose Society (ARS). The object of the Society is to promote interest in all aspects of rose horticulture through various educational programs, shows, publicity and participation in rose related projects.

The Society meets each month, with the exception of July, August and December, on the third Wednesday of each month at 7:00 pm at Building 4, Room 401 at City of Redding Corporation Yard, 20055 Viking Way, Redding, California. The meetings are held for the purpose of presenting an educational program. Admission is free to the general public.

Membership to the Society is open to anyone who supports the objectives of the Society. Annual single membership is \$25.00 and joint membership is \$30.00 which includes an annual subscription to *The Fifth Leaf*, the official newsletter of the Shasta Rose Society. *The Fifth Leaf* is published monthly except July, August and December.

Send Dues and new memberships to the Treasurer. Membership in ARS (\$49/\$46 Sr.) is optional. Make checks payable to Shasta Rose Society.

figured the color was a little bit off because of where and how it'd been grown for sale. It was COVERED in blooms and we figured that if it stayed the color it was or became pinker like the picture, we couldn't go wrong! The blooms lasted quite awhile and then it rested for a few weeks and then started all over again. This time the blooms looked exactly like the picture, more pink, less white and still beautiful. It had at least three full bloom cycles throughout the summer--which is really good for here!

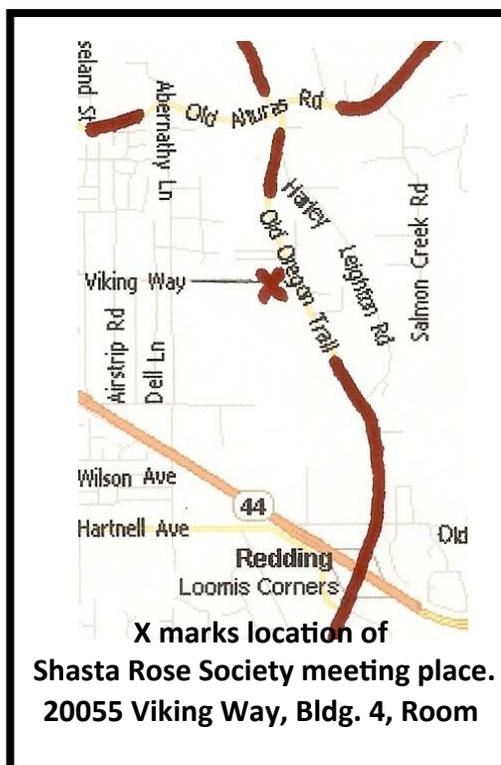
The fragrance is described as moderate but maybe my nose was working better last summer because I thought it was pretty fragrant! Can't wait to see how it is this year!

Rose Pruning Notebook

Steve Radler, "Father" of the Knockout Roses

What is your secret trick to successful rose pruning? The secret to making a job as fun as possible is to have the right tools. For pruning I use a Felco #6 pruners which has a smaller blade that is less fatiguing since it takes less effort. The Felco 910 holder easily clips onto my belt, pants pocket, or pants waist making it convenient to use whenever I go out to prune.

Do you have something you use that is unusual and not what people would normally use that you use for rose pruning? The little file I've had since



drafting class in high school 52 years ago. With a few strokes the file quickly sharpens the blade.

What advice do you most commonly give about rose pruning? Don't be afraid to prune. Cut the good canes down to about 10 to 12 inches. remove anything dead. When canes are too close together and there aren't too many of them, separate them through staking. When canes produce abnormally small side growths that result in blind shoots, remove these canes completely except for when bushes are weak, then do not remove any live wood; let puny canes (I call these feeder canes) produce leaves that can trap energy so that the plants can produce new vigorous basal canes.

While the common recommendation is to prune to an outside bud, I say "it all depends". When the bush grows naturally wide, pruning to an outside bud will result in an even wider plant. When a bush is naturally very upright in habit, it really doesn't matter if the bud is inside or outside, the growth will be upright any way you prune. It is all about logic and observation.

On grafted plants, be on the lookout for suckering from the rootstock throughout the growing season. When found, prune out suckers completely from where they originate which is often way below ground. With a knife, remove some adjoining tissue to help prevent re-suckering.

Reprinted from *American Rose*, February 201

Black Magic

Teresa Starr



One of my favorite Hybrid Tea roses is "Black Magic" which perpetually blooms during the growing season. The picture shown was taken in the middle of January and this rose is absolutely stunning, even during the winter months! The color is a dark red with long stems, high center blooms and holds its color for many days after cutting. The rose is a show stopper in the garden and also wins many awards on the show table! The American Rose Society gives "Black Magic" an 8.1 rating. It's shade tolerant, disease resistant with none to mild fragrance. Growing Height is approximately 5' to 7' tall by 4' wide. I would highly recommend this rose for our Redding area!



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Shasta Rose Society



What The Heck Is “Finger Pruning”?

Carol Cowee

As I sit on my lovely teak bench, just given me by dear friends who are moving away, in my “to be new rose garden” after losing my old 170 roses in the Carr Wildfire, I feel I finally might have control over my roses and my life! With 170 roses, I NEVER had control over anything! It has been 6 months since the fire and now I am finally getting ready to start a new rose garden. We have been in our new 9 year-old house almost 3 months now. At first I didn’t even want a garden but now I realize, I CAN’T LIVE WITHOUT ROSES! The first clue was when I noticed a bare spot of space in our new yard and thought it would be perfect for a small rose garden! This is next to the driveway in front of the house with limited space so I won’t be able to plant too many roses.

That will be a whole other story...the ground is compacted and is hard as a rock. A friend offered his jackhammer and I laughed but that may be the answer. My trusty, hard working garden helper, Shari, offered to bring her powerful rototiller after the next rain. Shari says it just throws up rocks but I’m not sure there are any rocks but just hard red clay. We’ll see.

Many of you in Shasta Rose Society answered my call to come after the fire and haul out whatever garden supplies and yard art survived. there was quite a bit and one thing survived...my trusty iron rock bar. I had to use it yesterday to be able to put four solar lights in the ground!

So now onto finger pruning. All my roses are in pots planted with a bag of Rose Soil. They are all leafing out and sitting on my lovely bench. This

brought them up close and personal! It was a simple manner to hold the pot in one hand and rub off the wrong headed new growth...basically that’s what finger pruning is. Just be sure to wear gloves. It will have to be done again a bit later but oh, what time that saves later in the spring when that new soft growth grows thick and hard and in the wrong place! Basically, you want to eliminate any new growth headed off in the wrong direction...aiming inward to the bush, between two nice canes and any new growth too low on the bush. This also directs more energy and growth to the canes in the right place. So now you know the basics of finger pruning...now go to it!

My main problem in my old garden were roses too close to work around and just too many. I would often take my long hand weeder and push off the new growth that was in the wrong place.

I have recently bought roses...some at Home Depot, some at Grocery Outlets! A lovely Julia Child was given to me by good friends and I’ve ordered three from David Austin. Another garden helper, Luke, dug up 16 minis at the burn site after 3 hot months with no water after the fire. They are in pots here and some have bloomed! Talk about tough plants! I have burned canes and roots from my Mme. Isaac Pierre and Citrus Splash.. They have lots of green growth and I don’t think either are grafted but the new abundant growth looks suspicious, like it doesn’t belong to those roses so I will have to wait and see if they produce the right roses.



CONSULTING ROSARIANS

Redding Area

Barrie Freeman* (Shasta Lake)

Lesla Lane* (Corning)

Bob Parker* (Shingletown)

Sandy Parker* (Shingletown)

Linda Walton* (Redding)

* Master Rosarian

DATES TO REMEMBER

February 20 (Wednesday): Next Meeting, 7:00 p.m., Building 4, Room 401, City of Redding Corporation Yard, 20055 Viking Way, Redding. **Program:** Chemical Safety.

Presented by: Paul Stockton.

Refreshments: Linda Walton and Carol Cowee.

June 22 (Saturday): A Day In the Rose Garden, Garden of Bob and Sandy Parker, Shingletown.

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Barrie Freeman, Editor



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www.shastarosesociety.org