

The Fifth Leaf

Shasta Rose Society
American Rose Society Affiliate

Volume 33 Number 3

March 2019

President's Message

Lesla Lane

Good news...Winter is almost over and spring is almost here!!! Yay!!! I'll say it again...Yay!!! I'm tired of being cold. I want to play in my yard without six layers of clothes. And in three months I'll be whining about the heat. But at least we get two or three months per year when the weather is juuust right.

So onto business...The Day in a Rose Garden event date has been changed to June 1 and is still at Bob and Sandy Parker's villa in Shingletown. Linda Walton and Barbara Pike are still co-chairs and are looking for help from everybody. They will be making announcements at the meetings and sending around the ever present sign-up clip boards. This is a "many hands make for light work" and lots of fun kind of event.

Sometimes finding a program speaker can be difficult. While there are many people in the rose world who put on programs, many of these same people don't like driving long distances (like Redding) to put on their programs. If you know of someone local who might be a good speaker for our society, please give their name and phone number to our program chair, Linda Walton. Anything rosy or garden related would be ideal. Personally, I'd love to see a cooking with roses program. Know any chefs?

By now most of you have finished pruning or are nearly finished pruning. If you haven't finished pruning, it's not too late. Just be sure to get the last rose bush pruned before it starts looking so good you won't want to prune it. It's March and leaf and bud growth is getting vigorous now so be sure to start fertilizing with plant food of your choice. Once the soil warms up to 65 - 70 degrees the roses will start taking up nutrients. Alfalfa is a good nutrient to add around the rose bush at a rate of 1/4 - 1 cup

per bush. Shovel prune disease prone roses and plant new ones. Move or transplant roses to different locations. Control/pull the weeds. Pull off diseased leaves. Hose off aphids. Put out snail bait (without metalaxyl-arsenic). Finger prune the inside new growth to improve airflow. Keep your roses hydrated if we don't get any rain. And, if you don't get any of this done, your roses will be just fine until you have time to fiddle with them. So little time, so much gardening.

Enjoy your first blooms of the season.

Growing Roses

Dean Davis, Consulting Rosarian

If you think roses are fussy, require strange horticultural practices and are plain difficult to grow, you are wrong. Roses are amazing plants. Unlike other perennials, they bloom starting in the spring through the fall. They provide one of the most beautiful blooms of all flowers and some have the most heavenly scent. There is nothing like having a bouquet of sweet smelling roses in your home to create a feeling of contentment and joy.

In return for rewarding the gardener with lots of flowers all through the growing season, it doesn't seem too much to ask from rose plants to expect a little more care than their once-a-season blooming perennial neighbors. They have certain requirements that must be met in order for them to thrive.

Like hundreds of plants in the *Rosaceae* family, particularly those that produce flowers and fruit over long periods of time, roses are susceptible to damage from a variety of insects and diseases. With few exceptions, these pests are easily controlled with beneficial insects and in the Redding area, diseases are not a problem when the weather turns warm. If you like, you can control diseases with chemicals.

Roses are also heavy feeders, requiring lots of

water, fertilizer and sunlight. When there is about two inches of growth in the spring they need to be fed. I prefer to use organic fertilizer, such as fish emulsion, kelp, bone meal, cottonseed meal, worm castings, etc. You can also use a commercial

2019 Officers & Directors

President: Lesa Lane

Past President: Bob Parker

Vice President: Linda Walton

Secretary: Barbara Pike

Treasurer: Jim Cowee

Director: Don Brand

Director: Carol Cowee

Director: Rocki Sampson

Director: Susan Wilson

Webmaster
Jim Cowee

***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.

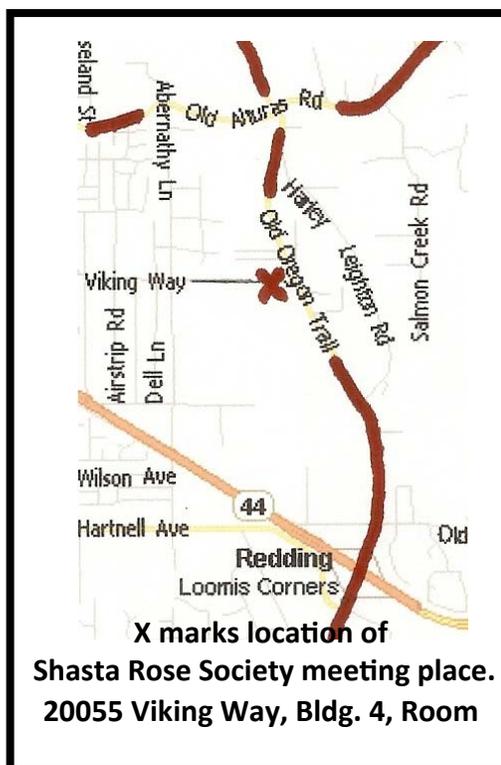
fertilizer such as 15-15-15. You should continue applying fertilizer every two weeks until mid October.

Roses like lots of water and the best way to know if you have a correct amount is to dig a hole about ten inches deep. If the bottom of the hole is wet, you have applied too much water. If it is dry, you have not applied enough water. If it is damp, you have done just the right thing (keep it up). When you plant your roses, be sure to pick a place in your garden where there is at least six hours of sun every day.

Bare root roses should be planted when the soil is warm enough to work. In our climate that can be December and January but they should not be planted later than April. If you order roses by mail, they will arrive at the correct planting time. If you buy them at your local garden center, you can plant them as soon as they are available.

Bare root roses must be kept moist until you are ready to plant them. If you are ready to plant the day you receive them, don't do it. They need to soak in a bucket of water for at least 24 hours. A week or so is about the maximum amount of time to keep the plant in water before planting them in the ground. Do not let the roots dry out at any time.

Roses need rich, loamy soil. If yours is not good enough, you may want to amend what you have or



replace it altogether. Dig a generous hole, about 2 feet in diameter and just as deep. Be sure to use half of the soil you remove from the hole and mix it with rich compost or other planting soils.

You may want to add some bone meal or superphosphate to the amended soil. These provide phosphorus to the soil. Phosphorus moves slowly in the soil and therefore it is advantageous to mix it in the soil at planting time.

Make an inverted cone of soil in the bottom of the hole roughly the reverse of the shape of the roots as they spread out from the shank of the plant. Then place the bare-root plant on top of the cone. The roots should fit comfortably into the hole without bending. The height at which the rosebush is planted is very important. The bud union should be about one inch above the level of the soil. Backfill with amended soil. Water the soil generously and wait for it to settle. Then add more soil and water.

Water the new plant every day or two if Mother Nature does not. Do not fertilize the newly planted rose for a month or so.

Potted roses should be planted in much the same way, but because they are already growing and have already developed delicate new roots, you should take great pains to keep the soil around the root ball intact.

Roses can also thrive when grown in containers. Your rose will need a pot that is larger than the one in which you bought it and it must be planted in excellent soil which should be kept moist at all times.

Reprinted from *The Fifth Leaf*, March 2007.

Editor's Note: Nutrients in organic fertilizers are not available for the plant until after decomposition while those of chemical fertilizers are available at all times. I like to apply organic fertilizers starting in the winter allowing decomposition to start when the soil warms up. In our hot summers, I like to give my roses a rest from mid June through August and thus do not apply fertilizers during this time. Water is the essential element during the summer.

Membership Committee

Meeting Report to Shasta Rose Society

Carol Cowee

The membership Committee comprised of Susie Graves, Sue Blake, Linda Walton and Carol Cowee

New Members

A hearty welcome to
Sue and Mike Pellascio

met January 18th. Linda was unable to attend. We met at the Cowees' home and enjoyed a bowl of hot soup! It was a cold winter's day!

We all shared our enjoyment of the social aspect of the society, and the treasured relationships. We agreed more low-key social events are needed giving opportunities to invite others to get to know our group of wonderful people.

Susie suggested a monthly potluck at members' home/gardens. We will start the first Saturday in April, the 6th, at the Cowees' garden, 1972 Balzac Court, Redding at 11. Bring potluck...from finger foods to sandwiches to hot casseroles. Weather permitting, we will eat in or out. Mark your calendars for the events: April 6th. June 1 will be our Day In a Rose Garden at Parkers' in Shingletown.

Regarding the feeling of having an inadequate garden to share, we will focus on the reality that all of us have gardens IN PROCESS. Comfort comes in sharing what we have, and enjoying it with our friends who also love roses and gardening. Perfection is not required! Once we have a good following to the monthly potlucks, Susie will post on social media to invite the public--assuming the hosts agree.

We also discussed meeting speakers. It was suggested that we combine with other garden groups once or twice a year for an event with a top-notch speaker. By joining resources, we can attract different speakers, more attendees and socialize with other garden lovers and maybe attract new members to Shasta Rose Society.

We discussed the desire to change things a little with new events and to use Facebook for advertising. Susie will ask for a small budget for "boosting" some posts for a cheap marketing strategy.

Our meeting location change was revisited. Suggestions were to look into the Arboretum, and check with the Chamber for suggestions.

Do You Need A Nametag?

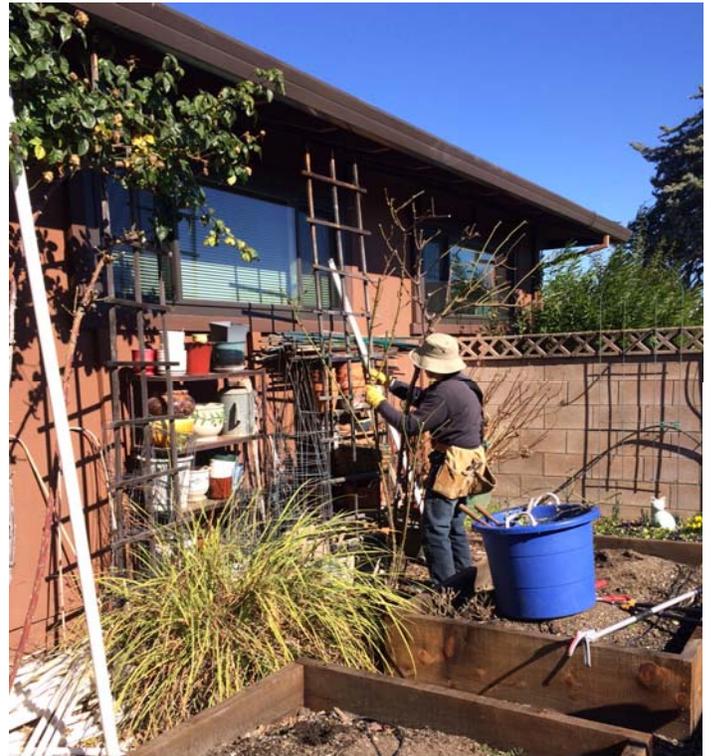
Call Carol Cowee and place your order. She will see that they are made and delivered to you! For new members they are free. If you need a replacement the charge is \$8.00.

Pruning for Scholarships

In spite of rain, snow and predicted hard freezes, the pruning crew completed the project for this year under the superb leadership of Linda Walton. Linda gives special thanks to Bob and Sandy Parker, Dee Dee and Buster Klein, Barbara Pike, Rocki Sampson, Noreen Ford, Judith Bentley, Don Brand, Teresa Starr, Sandy Driver, and Barrie Freeman. Unfortunately it was raining every Saturday so those working could not participate.

They pruned 27 gardens and earned approximately \$2600 for scholarships. Pruning was done in three days in January and two in February.

Pruning Eve and Arch Pugh's Roses



Pruning Ray Vasconcelo's Garden





Teresa Starr’s Back Yard After The Storm

Teresa says, “I’m not sure how many of you know that we lost the large oak tree on the back patio. Plus many other trees were either uprooted or snapped off...look’s like a war zone! We’ve got a lot of cleanup to do, but I’m taking it in stride! At least we’re safe and the house had little damage.



Winter Wonderland

View of Linda and Brent’s garden after the snow. She reports “It is so beautiful but cleanup of broken limbs took a few days of hard work. I am so thankful for family and friends who helped cleanup the garden”.

reading my article last year you are probably wondering what the heck rock dust is. Good question. I hadn’t heard about it either until an organic farmer told me it was the only “fertilizer” he added to his rice crop. Rock Dust is the result of pulverizing rock which has been ground over by a glacier. This rock is very high in minerals and when ground into a very fine powder makes these minerals more easily



Rock Dust, Part II

Lesa Lane, Master Rosarian

Last year I wrote an article on the benefits of using Rock Dust as a soil supplement in your rose beds and gardens in general. In this article, I will report on the results I have seen so far in my yard after one year of application of Rock Dust.

For those of you who didn't have the pleasure of

assembled by the mycorrhiza in the soil.

In my garden, I applied about 1/4 cup to the approximately 100 roses in the front yard only. I worked it into the soil by applying a shovel full of well-rotted manure over the top so it wouldn't blow away in the incessant wind here in Corning. So far I have noticed 2 remarkable results: color intensity and revitalization.

First, color. The color and saturation of roses was pronouncedly more intense and darker. For example, Brigadoon (which is listed as a pink blend by ARS but is usually much more coral orange) had grown as an orange/white in my yard. After the Rock Dust application, the color intensity in Brigadoon was a deep, intense orange with a smoky orange edge. Meanwhile on the other side of the yard, the floribunda Brilliant Pink Iceberg (which has always produced roses ranging in color from the lightest pink to the darkest hot pink) grew blooms in all shades of hot pink.

Revitalization of old roses was the other notable first year result. I had been given the hybrid tea Glowing Peace by a friend who had moved across the country. I do not know the age of the plant when I received it but I have had it for about 8 years. This rose has always been stingy with blooms but I kept it because it is uncommon and has sentimental value. Well it woke up! Bloom production was continuous with both individual blooms and sprays. Last year I wrote an article on the benefits of using Rock Dust blooms and sprays! The above mentioned Brigadoon also was a stingy producer until last year when it starting throwing mostly huge sprays. Wow did that rose wake up!

According to my organic rice farmer friend, the garden results will improve and be most outstanding in year 3 after application. The benefits are already obvious to me. I'm not going to deny my backyard roses this year but am going to give them a treatment with Rock Dust too. Consider adding this wonderful amendment to your rose garden soil.



CONSULTING ROSARIANS

Redding Area

Barrie Freeman* (Shasta Lake)

Lesla Lane* (Corning)

Bob Parker* (Shingletown)

Sandy Parker* (Shingletown)

Linda Walton* (Redding)

221-1852

* Master Rosarian

DATES TO REMEMBER

March 20 (Wednesday): Next Meeting, 7:00 p.m., Building 4, Room 401, City of Redding Corporation Yard, 20055 Viking Way, Redding. **Program:** Demonstration on propagating roses from cuttings.

Presented by: Rocky Sampson.

Refreshments: Linda Walton and Barrie Freeman.

June 1 (Saturday): A Day In the Rose Garden, Garden of Bob and Sandy Parker,

Disclaimer: While the advice and information in this newsletter is believed to be true and accurate at the date of publication, neither the authors nor the editors can accept any legal responsibility for any errors or omissions that may have been made. The Shasta Rose Society makes no warranty, express or implied, with respect to the material contained herein.

Barrie Freeman, Editor
The Fifth Leaf



Visit Shasta Rose Society Website
www.shastarosesociety.org