

The Fifth Leaf

Shasta Rose Society
American Rose Society Affiliate

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President's Message

Lesla Lane

I have roses blooming already. I can't believe it! Well except for the fact that it's been a really warm winter which would push blooming. But other than that...I still can't believe it! Yesterday I saw a bloom of Angel Face, Iceberg, Perfect Moment, several minis, and some lovely things blooming way out back. And I'm having to water at least once per week. Looks like another dry, hot year on the way. Or I could be wrong. Hopefully I'm wrong. (Yes sometimes I'm wrong, believe it or not.)

Recently, Star Roses donated roses to the City Hall Rose Garden after Treasurer Jim Cowee contacted them for help. Star Roses very generously sent 23 tree roses (all Knockouts) and several hybrid teas (Francis Meiland and Gold Medal, both of which do well in hot climates) to the city to replace really old, gnarly specimens. Linda Walton and I had mapped out what needed replacing, determined what would match the garden design, and then placed the order. We had noticed that the city had replaced several of the tree roses with white or pink iceberg trees. Starr Roses carries the Knockout brands so the whole garden should match up pretty good. Be sure to stop by in the spring to check out how the new roses are blooming. A big thank you to Star roses!

And a big thank you to Carol Cowee for her video program last month on her Lost Garden of Laurie Lane. I really wish I had taken the time to visit her garden when she had one of her frequent open houses. Fortunately, Carol's new gardens are coming along beautifully at her new house. I was there yesterday and she too had roses blooming early. A great big beautiful, and very fragrant, Don Juan greeted me at the front door. You just can't keep at good rose gardener down for very long.

Teresa Starr has been busy lining up the pro-

grams for the year. Next month our good friend, Paul Stockton of Woods Pest Control, will be our guest. His program will focus on Pest Control Safety. Paul is always an entertaining and informative speaker (who also brings interesting items for the raffle, like a can of Instant Soap and Water - blew my mind!). Personally, I always learn from his programs and can apply that knowledge in my own garden/yard. Consulting Rosarians will earn a point for this class.

The Northern-California-Nevada-Hawaii District semi-annual business meeting is being held in Vallejo on March 14. All rose society members are invited to attend. Bob and Sandy Parker, being American Rose Society members, will be our official voting delegates. I will also be there as I am now an important person (*snicker*). I am the new District Deputy Director since the last one abdicated so he could go to dog shows. Ewww. Cat shows I could understand. But dog shows! Double ewww! So if you would like to attend this meeting, go to the District website at www.ncnhdistrict.org and all information is listed. The best part...a fantastic raffle with lots of great prizes. And the pot luck. Can't forget the potluck. It wouldn't be a rose event without lots of food.

Well that's all for now. Please pray for rain, do a rain dance, and dress your dog up in funny costumes to appease and please the rain gods.

See you round the rose bush, Lesla

Writing with Light

Lesla Lane, Master Rosarian

The word "photography" literally means from Greek "writing with light." Light is the single most important element of photography. How you use light in your photographs is your personal preference. When photographing outdoors you may want softness, vibrancy, or harshness. Indoor photography almost always benefits from flash lighting,

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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.

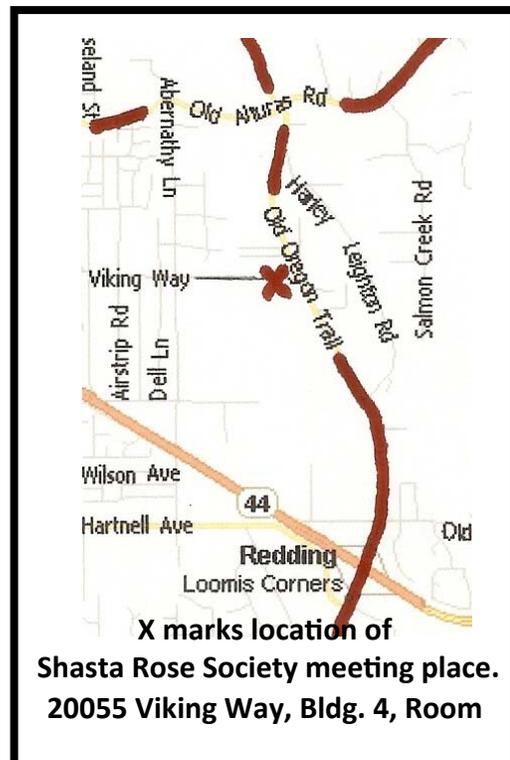
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especially at rose shows.

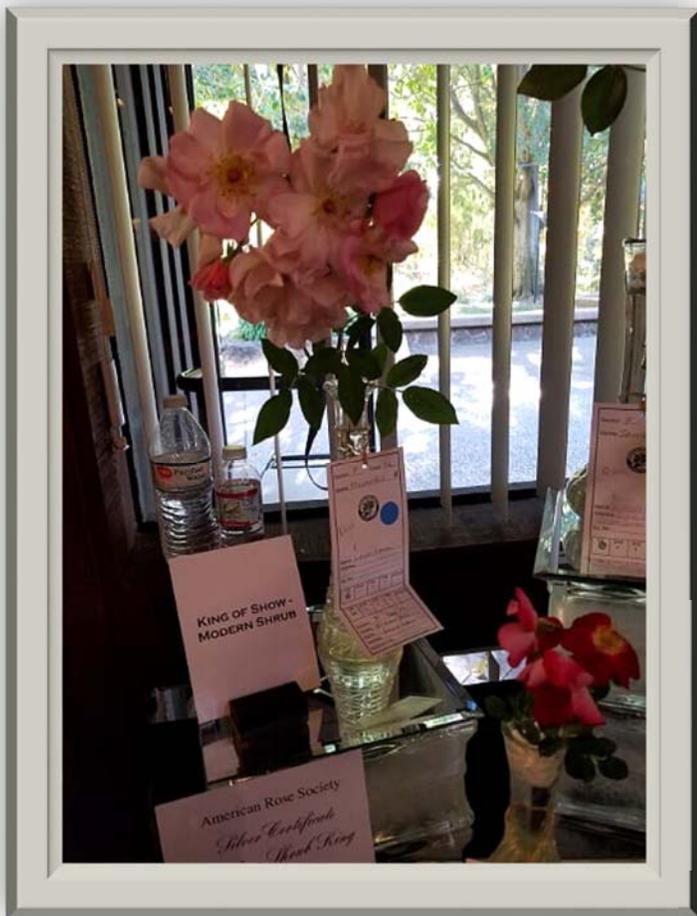
The best way to learn about lighting in photography is to take many photos while you experiment with different techniques and settings (both camera and location!). Have fun in your garden and in other's gardens. Play with your photos later on your computer to enhance their beauty to your liking.



Stretch Johnson on a cloudy day.



With digital cameras, including phone cameras, you can shoot with the flash on and off for the same subject and immediately compare your results. If shooting roses, you can then cut the rose and bring it indoors to a more controlled setting and again try both flash on and flash off.



Flower Girl would have been better with flash.

While you wander around grooming your rose garden (with your camera or phone in your pocket, of course), keep an eye on developing roses and try to get multiple shots - just opening, a little more open, still a little more open, just perfect swirl, fully open, in your face open. Try shooting the same rose in different lights and at different times of the day. Experiment.

Generally the best light without shadows for outdoor photography is at the Golden Hour which is around sunrise and sunset. The phone app "Photo Time" will list the 2 Golden Hours for the day and even alert you (to get out there and photograph

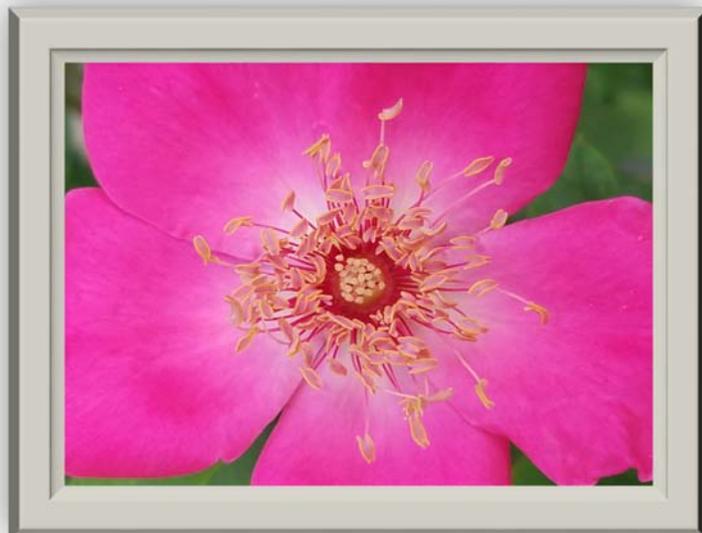
your roses!).

But those shadows! You find the perfect rose to photograph and shadows are falling across your subject. What to do? I often try to stand and create a shadow to give the shot a softer look. You can also



Bonnie Jean with uneven lighting.

try using the flash to fill in the shadows and even out the light. If you have a helper, have them hold up a shade such as a dark cloth or piece of cardboard. A car window cardboard shade is very handy for this. If you have a tripod you can hold your own sun blocks. Again, have fun and practice.



A macro shot of Bonnie Jean eliminates the shadows.

The key to getting good at anything is practice, practice, practice. Learning how to use light is just one aspect of becoming a better photographer. You have many months (well seven to be exact) to practice before our next rose show in October. Have fun. I look forward to seeing your fantastic photos of your lovely roses at the fall show.



My body created shade on Bonnie Jean



Too much light.

So You Want To Buy Rosebushes!

Ted Mills Chattanooga, TN

It has been my privilege to attend numerous rose shows all across the United States, both as an exhibitor and as a rose show judge. I never tire of viewing what I consider the most beautiful of God's floral creations.

During the rose shows I am often confronted with questions from aspiring rose growers. They are amazed at the quality of award-winning blooms. Their question is almost always this: "How can I duplicate the beauty of the winning roses in my own garden?" I am quick to reply that the rosarian must start with healthy plants or growing will be difficult. It is this initial purchasing of plants that makes them so. Following are some of the actions that will ensure good rosebush buying.

A purchasing program should include what, where, why, and when in the scenario. First, let's look at the "what" in question. Is the objective simply to provide a pretty landscaped yard, with no intention of cutting roses for friends or yourself? It is a good bet that sharing roses is the case. However, if you want only yard beautification, you should emphasize floribundas and shrub roses. A scattering of hybrid teas and grandifloras will also have curb appeal.

Next, "where" you purchase is vital to success. Of course there are several sources. Rose catalogs, discount stores, flea markets, roadside plant stands, plant nurseries and garden centers are all places



Needs flash on.



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which offer rosebushes for sale. In my opinion, the garden centers and plant nurseries provide the best source. It is true that thousands of bushes are sold via catalogs as this provides early shopping. Most of the time this method of buying is acceptable since the supplier usually provides complete satisfaction to the purchaser. However, flea markets and roadside fruit stands often provide plants that are sub-standard--hence the price is lower. Even the large discount stores have an abundance of bushes for sale but the sales attendants usually are now well versed in caring for them before the purchase is consummated. Often the bushes suffer from insufficient care.

In my opinion, after 25 years of rosebush buying, the best source of plants is the local garden center or nursery. These businesses usually have an experienced rose person caring for the bushes once they arrive from the grower. Pruning, potting and caring for the product is paramount in their work schedule. The merchant invests much and cannot risk loss of plants due to faulty preliminary care. Diligent care for the plants ensures they will be ready for planting when the risk of frost and freeze has passed. Then too, the purchaser can inspect the growing plant and select the best specimen available. Be sure to select plants with at least three lively canes in order to ensure good growth.

Get acquainted with the varieties that perform best. The American Rose Society's *Handbook for Selecting Roses* enables the rosarian to choose the highest-rated roses. If a newcomer to rose growing is in doubt, he or she should contact a Consulting Rosarian who provides expert assistance at no cost. This counsel will often prevent costly mistakes.

There has always been a disagreement as to which method of planting is best--bareroot or potted plants. In my opinion, bareroot is preferable if the rose grower is willing to do what is necessary to establish the plant properly in the space provided. However, since bareroot planting is labor intensive, with pitfalls awaiting the inexperienced, it behooves the newcomer in rose growing to plant garden-center-potted varieties. The local nurseryman has done much of the initial work. They have "jump started" the bush that can be planted in the garden at a more temperate time.

I offer one last word of caution to the newcomer in rose growing. Avoid buying rosebushes coated with paraffin. This is applied hot and encases the canes with a protective shield against dehydration during shipment. It ensures the plants arrive at the point of sale with a fresh look. However, my experience tells me that damage often results from such "hot" treatment. At the persistence of an out-of-state nursery, 10 paraffine-coated plants were planted alongside 10 that were not coated. The 10 non-coated performed well. All of the paraffin-coated plants perished.

To the newcomers in rose growing, I extend my congratulations and best wishes for a long and pleasant experience in rose culture. Start with good plants and you will be well on the way to a happy hobby.

This article is an Award of Merit winner. It originally appeared in *The Rose Leaf*. The newsletter of the Nashville Rose Society. It is reprinted from *American Rose*, March 2005.

Standing Tall

Ray Schaaf, Bothell, WA

As rose growers, we know that certain soil amendments, fertilizers and other additives can effectively be placed on the top of the soil and tilled in to produce good results. However, there are other things that are most effective when placed in very close proximity to the roots. One of these is phosphorous, which moves through the soil at a rate of about one inch per year.

The usual method for getting such materials down to the root zone is to use a dibble, usually a short stick with a metal tip, to punch holes in the soil around the drip line of the plants. The material is then fed down the hole, which is then covered over. However, both the creation of the holes and their filling with material are usually hands-and-knees chores that are hard on the legs and the backs for us "experienced" rosarians, so I came up with an easier way to get the goodies down to the roots while remaining on my feet.

To make the holes, I use a digging bar, simply a 3 to 4-foot bar with a pointed end, to punch four holes in the soil at least 6 inches deep. The applicator tool is an 8-inch funnel taped to a piece of 3/4-inch EMT (electrical metal tubing) that goes into the hole and the phosphorous, or whatever, goes easily into the funnel. *Voila!* Scrape a little dirt over the hole, and we're good to go, with no strain on the knees or back!

Reprinted from *American Rose*, May 2006.

CONSULTING ROSARIANS

Redding Area

Barrie Freeman* (Shasta Lake)

Lesia Lane* (Corning)

Bob Parker* (Shingletown)

Sandy Parker* (Shingletown)

Linda Walton* (Redding)

* Master Rosarian

DATES TO REMEMBER

March 18 (Wednesday): Next Meeting, 7:00 p.m., Building 4, Room 401, City of Redding Corporation Yard, 20055 Viking Way, Redding. **Program:** Pest Control Safety. **Presented by:** Paul Stockton, Wood's Pest Control. **Refreshments:** Holly Gilbert and Susy Graves.

October 10 (Saturday): Rose Show, First United Methodist Church, South and East Streets, Redding.

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Barrie Freeman, Editor
The Fifth Leaf



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