

THE GLEN-ROSE

SEPTEMBER 2011

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Welcome back from our summer break! I hope you all have had a wonderful summer. So, has it been hot enough for you? In case you hadn't noticed, it's been too hot for me and our poor rose bushes. They look like they've been through one of the Arizona wild fires. This is reported to be the hottest August on record. Sigh . . . !

It's time to shift things into high gear with our very busy fall activities just around the corner:

- pruning (heavy deadheading) at Sahuaro Ranch Park on Saturday and Sunday, September 17-18;
- the fall rose shows in November ;
- the Rose Society of Glendale rose garden tour on Saturday, November 12; and
- the Arizona Rose Societies Annual Banquet and Rose Show on Saturday, December 3.

So our rose society will be very busy, and I urge you to participate in as many of the activities as possible.

A reminder to all consulting rosarians: It is time to submit your "Roses in Review" report to the American Rose Society. The deadline is September 15. Although this is a requirement for all consulting rosarians, you do not need to be a consulting rosarian to submit a report. Feedback

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ROSE SOCIETY OF GLENDALE

GENERAL INFO

MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS are held at the **Glendale Woman's Club, 7032 North 56th Avenue (corner of 56th Avenue and Glenn Drive)**. Meetings are held on the **first Thursday of each month at 7pm**. Guests are always welcome.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETINGS are held at the **Glendale Woman's Club, 7032 North 56th Avenue (corner of 56th Avenue and Glenn Drive)**. Meetings are held on the **third Thursday of each month at 7:30pm**.

RSG CALENDAR

Thursday, September 1, at 7pm—RSG membership meeting at the Glendale Woman's Club.

Thursday, September 15, at 7:30pm—RSG board of directors meeting at the Glendale Woman's Club.

Saturday, September 17, 6:30-10:00am—pruning (heavy deadheading) at Sahuaro Ranch Park. All RSG members are invited—no, encouraged—to join us in this community endeavor. Bring your rose pruners, loppers, gloves, a hat, and whatever tools you need to get the job done!

Sunday, September 18, 6:30am till whenever—see entry immediately above.

Other Local Rose Society Meetings

Arizona West Valley Rose Society

Monthly general meeting—2nd Tuesday of each month at 7pm (tel 602.493.0238).
www.westvalleyrose.org

Phoenix Rose Society

Monthly general meeting—3rd Tuesday of each month at 7:30pm (tel 602.953.9133).
www.phoenixrose.org

Mesa-East Valley Rose Society

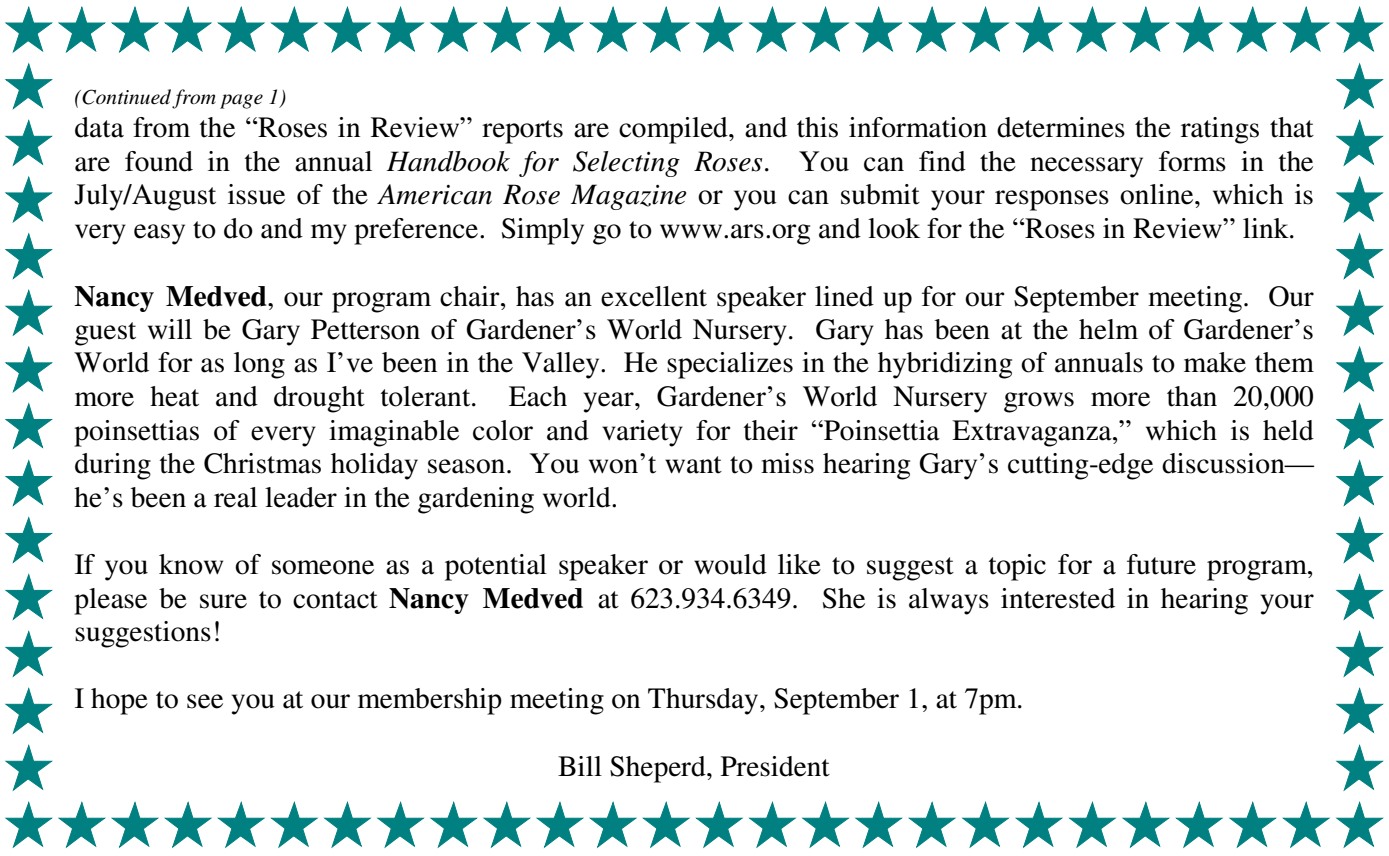
Monthly general meeting—2nd Thursday of each month at 7pm (tel 480.831.2609).
www.roses4az-mevrs.org

Scottsdale Rose Society

Monthly general meeting—2nd Wednesday of each month at 7:30pm (tel 480.945.8114).
<http://scottsdaleroose.org/Site/Welcome.html>

Sun City Rose Society & Garden Club

Monthly general meeting—2nd Monday of each month (except May through August) at 7:30pm (tel 623.977.4256).



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data from the “Roses in Review” reports are compiled, and this information determines the ratings that are found in the annual *Handbook for Selecting Roses*. You can find the necessary forms in the July/August issue of the *American Rose Magazine* or you can submit your responses online, which is very easy to do and my preference. Simply go to www.ars.org and look for the “Roses in Review” link.

Nancy Medved, our program chair, has an excellent speaker lined up for our September meeting. Our guest will be Gary Petterson of Gardener’s World Nursery. Gary has been at the helm of Gardener’s World for as long as I’ve been in the Valley. He specializes in the hybridizing of annuals to make them more heat and drought tolerant. Each year, Gardener’s World Nursery grows more than 20,000 poinsettias of every imaginable color and variety for their “Poinsettia Extravaganza,” which is held during the Christmas holiday season. You won’t want to miss hearing Gary’s cutting-edge discussion—he’s been a real leader in the gardening world.

If you know of someone as a potential speaker or would like to suggest a topic for a future program, please be sure to contact **Nancy Medved** at 623.934.6349. She is always interested in hearing your suggestions!

I hope to see you at our membership meeting on Thursday, September 1, at 7pm.

Bill Sheperd, President

September Speaker



Our speaker in September will be Gary Petterson, owner of Gardener’s World Nursery. Gary has been a previous speaker at the Rose Society of Glendale, and he has always been a very interesting, informative, and contemporary speaker on his hybridizing efforts, the advancements he has made in the pharmaceutical world through his plants, and his ongoing research into microbial enhancements of soil.

You definitely must attend this meeting and hear what Gary has to say. You won’t be disappointed!

The Not So Perfect Garden

by Sharyl Moen



When I moved to Sun City, my roses were packed up and also moved. My husband, Glenn, started digging up the yard to make rose beds. That was a project in itself, not to mention replanting the roses in their new home.

We have a lot of trees in our yard, and I knew they could be a problem for my roses. But people that live in the desert don't cut down trees. Because these are great shade trees, my hope was that they could co-exist with the roses. While the trees give the bushes a lot of protection from the intense summer heat, my spring blooms are consequently late, because they don't get enough sun at that time.

Watering is also a problem. We live in a condominium. The upside is that we have grass instead of gravel and trees instead of cacti. The general yard work (mowing and trimming) is done for us. The downside is we don't control the watering, its time of day, or the length of time. I can always do additional watering, but I can't control the timing. If the system comes on

late, the roses would be wet at night. This seems to make the roses a little angry. When the watering is cut back, I have to water carefully to make sure the water is getting to each rose, or they could stress beyond recovery if I don't catch the problem in time.

I have had some entries for the rose shows when a few blooms have prevailed in spite of these troublesome conditions. However, the last three years I haven't had anything to show. Needless to say, it has been very disappointing. I have felt like my garden was a lost cause, and I have given some thought to just giving up. I can think of a lot of other hobbies that are a lot less work and less frustration.

I had to remind myself that I didn't join the rose society to exhibit roses. I just wanted to learn more about roses. I enjoy the monthly meetings, and we have a very friendly group that is always ready to help with whatever questions I have. I've received advice on the best roses to add to my garden, their needed rose care, and, of course, how to groom roses for the shows. I started thinking more about the shows after clerking. So with some coaxing and help from fellow RSG members, I decided to give exhibiting a try. I found out how much fun it could be and why rosarians put so much time and effort into getting a rose to competition.

I still enjoy the rose shows, even when I'm without a bloom to my name. Clerking is always a learning experience. You can pick up a lot just listening to the judges making their decisions. I enjoy looking at all the beautiful roses from the "perfect gardens" and talking roses with their caregivers who bring them to compete. It's impossible not to feel their excitement and be truly happy for them when they have a winner.

I guess what I am trying to say is that, while I enjoy being an exhibitor, my first love is the gardening itself. I decided that you don't have to have a perfect garden to experience the joy of gardening. My dirt therapy has gotten me through some rough times. I think it's just plain good for the soul. Rose growing has its own special rewards. It's always amazing to me how a beautiful flower unfolds out of a little bud. What a gift!! So I guess if it doesn't open by show time, so be it.

I think I will continue to work in my garden just for the joy of it. Perhaps I'll even replace those bushes that lost their battle with the trees. Maybe someone knows of a hearty rose that could be David to our Goliath carob tree in our not so perfect garden!

Rose Society of Glendale 2011 Rose Garden Tour



*Saturday, November 12, 2011
9:30am—4:00pm*

**Contact Candy Sheperd at 623.878.9607 or rosebuds1@cox.net
to ask how you can help or participate in this special event!!**

Soil Sickness

by Dr. Tommy Cairns

(reprinted from *The Rose Reporter*, March 1999,
a bulletin of the Tinseltown Rose Society)



In researching the issues surrounding soil sickness, a number of interesting facts have come to light. First, the advice to renew or re-amend soil in rose beds when making new plantings is seemingly widespread based on practical experiences. This advice is followed religiously by many because of the advice of a few! It would seem that such advice might be misplaced and steeped in some ancient mystic that has somehow managed to survive into modern times.

Terms frequently used to describe the logic behind this suggestion have ranged from “spent” to “depleted” to “contamination.” Unless the rose has been a resident in that

location for more than 5 to 7 years, there is no known reason why the soil should be considered spent. If there is a shortage of phosphorous, then a cup of superphosphate or blood or bone meal at the base of the hole should replenish this needed nutrient by the root system. After all, the texture of the soil is merely the matrix in which the root system will grow. Its fertility can be controlled by proper management of the fertilization program.

The main reason often quoted by experts for replenishing the entire soil in a rose bed is allelopathy and is explained as “soil sickness.” This attribution is misleading and wrong. The term “allelopathy” is derived from the Greek words meaning “mutual harm.” In simple terms, certain plants emit chemicals that can be harmful to the growth of other plants. For example, black walnut trees produce a potent toxin called juglone, which washes into the ground with rainfall and prevents the growth of some broadleaf plants. This same compound, juglone, was also used by farmers in the 19th Century when they used the juice of the black walnut rubbed on their livestock to repel flies.

Such reports of allelopathic effects in agriculture stretch as far back as the 5th Century B.C. In addition, in 1932 a Frenchman described the natural phenomenon that rye inhibited the growth of wheat. But it was not until about a century later that a German scientist coined the expression “allelopathy.”

Now why should this allelochemical effect have anything to do with soil sickness and rose growing? Scientists have recently found out that as a result of microbial decomposition, allelochemicals can be formed. A potential source of microbial decomposition are the rose roots left behind when a rose bush is removed. Rarely does the rosarian remove all the roots completely when digging up old bushes to make room for the new. Roots are severed, and the remaining roots in the soil undergo decomposition and, as a result, it is speculated that allelochemicals are formed inhibiting the growth of the newly planted bush. This explanation makes a lot of sense since one of the recommended remedies handed down through the years has been to set a fire in the hole. Such an action would certainly kill all of the remaining decaying matter and bacteria responsible for production of these harmful chemicals.

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It would appear, therefore, that the advice to replenish the soil in a rose bed when replanting is not really necessary provided certain housekeeping chores are attended to. First, all remnants of the previous inhabitant's root system should be removed to prevent decay and hence possible inhibition of growth due to allelochemicals from that decaying matter. Secondly, replenishment of the phosphorous content of the bed or hole can be easily accommodated by placing a cup of superphosphate or blood or bone meal at the bottom of the bed or hole. Thirdly, allow a reestablishment of proper soil chemistry by allowing the soil to remain fallow (i.e., no planting yet) for at least 30 days.

With the rising costs of various soil amendments and the problems of disposing of supposedly spent or sick soil, the preparation of rose beds can be accomplished without too much effort. Following the guidelines given above should help prevent the onset of allelopathy and save your labors and dollars for fertilizing and spraying. Coping with new plants can become a less intensive labor and make rose growing much more enjoyable.

September Rose Care

In July we talked about pruning your rose bushes for the upcoming State Fair and the November rose shows:

- Prune about one third of the total bush height, and give the roses six weeks before a show to allow them to bloom.
- Feed your roses an organic rose food at half strength two separate times: the first feeding is in mid-September and the second feeding is around October 7.
- For greener foliage, give the plants some extra chelated iron.
- Then give some water-soluble fertilizer like Miracle-Gro® applied at half strength each week for three weeks prior to the rose show.
- You should also probably rinse off the rose leaves to control white flies and spider mites.
- After the new buds start to form, you could spray them every few days with a small amount of Orthene®. This will help to keep thrips from harming the blooms.



Happy gardening!

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2011 Board of Directors

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Candy Sheperd

Janet Harting

Tricia Trew

Sharyl Moen

Nona Welsch



RSG Nominating Committee

Bill Sheperd, President

It's time to start thinking about 2012 and who you'd like to have serve as the RSG officers and directors for the coming year. Gerry Mahoney has volunteered to chair the nominating committee. She is joined by Judy Hudgeons and Candy Sheperd, who comprise the three officers/directors to serve on the committee. At our September general membership meeting, I will ask for two volunteers from the general membership to also serve on the committee.

The nominating committee usually holds one meeting (at which food is normally involved) to draft a slate of officers and directors. The committee will present its proposed slate at the RSG meeting in October. The slate will again be presented at the November meeting, at which time additional nominees will be sought. After the nominees are heard, if any, the RSG members will vote on the proposed 2012 slate of officers and directors. Finally, the newly elected officers and directors will be installed at the RSG holiday party in December.

If you would like to serve as an officer or director, please feel free to "throw your hat in the ring" by contacting Gerry Mahoney at 623.581.3756. The only requirement to serve is that you must be a member of the Rose Society of Glendale who is in good standing. Additionally, if you would like to serve as RSG president, you must have previously served as an RSG officer or director.

As a young sprout in the rose world, I remember being asked by Mary Hanson to serve on the board of directors of the Rose Society of Glendale. I thought, "How cool it is to be asked to fill such an important position!" Of course, I said "yes," and it turned out to be one of the best things that has ever happened to me. So consider volunteering or, if asked, gladly accept the invitation. You won't regret it. We are always looking for fresh new faces to serve our rose society.

THE GLEN-ROSE

ROSE SOCIETY OF GLENDALE
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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

ROSE SOCIETY OF GLENDALE

(affiliated with the American Rose Society)

Mission: The Rose Society of Glendale provides an opportunity to share a love of roses by providing information, education, and demonstrations at our meetings.

The Rose Society of Glendale is a nonprofit, educational, community oriented, family organization for anyone interested in our national floral emblem—THE ROSE.

Membership meetings are held at the Glendale Woman's Club, 7032 North 56th Avenue (corner of 56th Avenue and Glenn Drive). Meetings are held on the **first Thursday of each month at 7pm.** Guests are always welcome.

Be sure to check out the Rose Society of Glendale at roseglenaz.com

Man, oh man—I ate so much carp in August that my master won't even get downwind of my tasty "Kitty breath!"



SammyDude