



# Rose Ecstasy

*a feeling of overpowering joy, passion, great delight*

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Kitty Belendez, Editor

## NEXT MEETING

Sunday, September 8  
2:30 P.M.

## How to Recognize Bugs & Disease on Your Roses

Featured Speaker:

**SCOTT KLITICH**

*Otto & Sons Nursery*



Scott will show us how to recognize bugs and diseases on our roses. He has worked at the family nursery, Otto & Sons in Fillmore, for over 27 years and is currently general

manager. There they grow thousands of roses on 22 acres. Scott received his Bachelor's Degree in Ornamental Horticulture from Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo.

### ✓ Door Prize

*Sign in for free door prize chance*

### ✓ Rose Raffle

*Raffle tickets are 3/\$1 or 20/\$5*

### ✓ Refreshments

*Free raffle ticket if you bring a snack*

### ✓ Little Rose Show

*Free raffle ticket if you bring a rose*

## Yellow Rose Month

★★★ Meeting At ★★★

[SCV Senior Center](#)

[22900 Market Street, Newhall](#)

*Bring a Friend!*

[Visit Our Website:](#)



## Downsizing the Upsized Garden

*By Kitty Belendez, Master Rosarian*

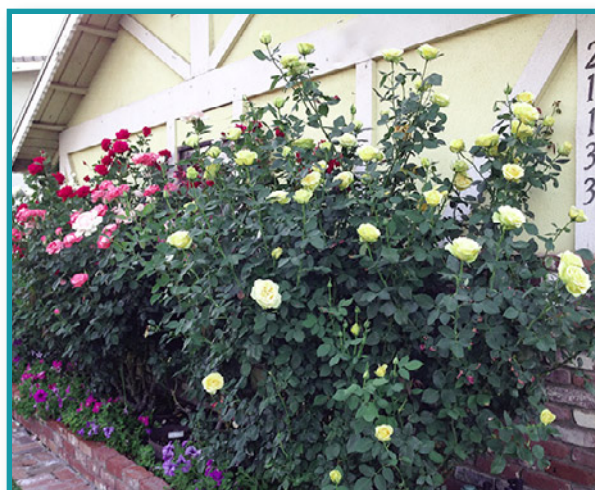


PHOTO BY KITTY BELENDEZ

**A 7-Foot Tall Bush of St Patrick, July-2013**

loved his LAWN! And I loved my peach and plum trees with which I made jams, cobblers, and Bob made wine.

A few years later, I had not only surpassed my self-imposed 50 rose maximum, but I continued to add to my collection beyond my new maximum of 100. Of course, as the years went by I increased my maximum almost every

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### 2013 AMERICAN ROSE SOCIETY AWARD OF MERIT WINNER

One of the first articles I wrote about roses about 25 years ago (1988) was titled "Notes From a Small Rose Garden" wherein I stated that I only had space for 50 roses and therefore I would stop buying roses when I hit that mark. I was a novice rose grower then, and most of my roses at that time were tiny miniatures grown in very small 3-gallon wooden containers. Those were the days when miniature roses were truly petite minis. Some of the varieties I grew were the likes of Rainbow's End, Snow Bride, and Beauty Secret. They were all very small bushes that grew to a compact 10-inches. My husband was happy that I had set that 50 maximum because he

### ★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★ SEPTEMBER HIGHLIGHTS

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year until I had maxed out my garden at 350 roses. New rose beds were added in place of the peach and plum trees that eventually had to be removed because of termites. I could have added even more roses if I had not added a spa and swimming pool to our garden around year five. Oh, and by the way, we still live at the same location that we did when I had set the 50 rose maximum.

In the meantime, new miniature roses continued to evolve into a larger size with many reaching 24-inches and larger. And then along came the minifloras, a new classification for miniatures that were simply too large to be miniatures as they easily reached 36-inches and even taller.

So my garden continued to expand in quantity as well as bush size, as I had been also adding the larger variety types such as hybrid teas, shrubs, floribundas, polyanthas, old garden roses, and even several climbers.

Then about ten years ago, I became infatuated with Fortuniana as a rose rootstock. At first I did not realize that Fortuniana rootstock would make the rose bushes double in size for most roses. Then when I heard about it, I still did not believe it. It took about five years of growth for my own roses grown on Fortuniana to reach their full size potential. It was only several years ago that I finally became a true believer when some of my roses were getting so large that they are overpowering and smothering their nearby neighbors.

In the beginning when we first started planting roses, we would plant them on 24" to 30" centers. Roses in our garden now have to be spaced between 36" to 48" so their neighbors can breathe. Those 3-gallon pots for miniatures (7" x 10") have all moved up to 7 gallon pots (10" x 14") for smaller minis, 10 gallons for large minis, and on up to 15 gallon pots for minifloras whether or not they are grown on their own roots or are grafted on Fortuniana or some other rootstock.

Over the past several years, I've had to make some tough decisions and actually removed a few roses here and there in between other roses to give each bush more space to grow well.

For example, a Perdita shrub is crammed in between two huge Squires, so Perdita will be moved to another location, giving The Squire space to spread out more. My original Squire 25 years ago never grew more than 3 feet tall. My four bushes of The Squire on Fortuniana are all taller than my 6-foot fence.

A bush of hybrid tea Red Intuition languishes when placed in between a huge Black Magic and an almost as huge Affirm, all on Fortuniana rootstock.

New bushes of Dona Martin and Desperado were placed in spots formerly occupied by older rose bushes that were on Dr. Huey. After only six months it became obvious that we needed to remove both of the new roses and put only Dona Martin back in the spot formerly occupied by two roses, and move Desperado to a different space.

We continue to thin out rose bushes here and there throughout our garden, and in the process are actually downsizing our garden by the number of plants. But in reality, these larger bushes are allowed to grow bigger and

therefore are producing more blooms per plant.

I would like to point out that most rose society members are perfectly content with rose bushes that are either grown on their own roots or on the California grown Dr. Huey rootstock. Most home gardens are not suited to such huge plants like the rose exhibitor can grow on specialty rootstocks. And a benefit of roses grown on their own roots is that there will be no "suckers" to worry about. An own root plant just takes a bit longer to establish to full potential. Roses grown on Fortuniana rootstock must be staked and tied, which can be annoying to those that don't have the time or inclination to obsess over their gardens. If you grow roses simply for landscaping effect, I would recommend that you stick with either own root roses or those on Dr. Huey rootstock unless you have lots of time, patience, and space in your garden.

At last count, I have downsized to 300 rose bushes, and yet my garden appears to be fuller, happier, and more productive than when we had 350.

## SEPTEMBER ROSE CARE

*By Kitty Belendez, Master Rosarian*

### ✔ Don't Forget to Water

Fall Santa Ana winds can dry out the soil and the roses too. Check your sprinklers to make sure they are being turned on for the proper duration.

### ✔ Finish Summer Pruning For Bountiful Fall Blooms

If you want to have a big burst of colorful bloom during the month of October, I suggest *lightly* trimming all of your roses at the end of August. The best time to trim is September 1st through 7th if you want blooms for our November 2 rose show. Do not strip off all the foliage like you would do for the hard winter pruning ritual, and only cut back about one-third to one-half of the height of each plant. Whether you want to exhibit at the fall shows or simply want a bounty of beautiful roses for your dinner table, fall pruning is well worth the extra effort.

### ✔ Begin the Fall Feeding and Spraying Program

Mildew could begin to make its appearance as the weather starts to cool down again. If you can't stand mildew, you might want to spray fungicide every 7 to 10 days beginning late September as a mildew and rust preventative. When you see aphids, you might need to spray an insecticide if they get out of control. Begin feeding with rotations of fish emulsion, epsom salts, iron, and a balanced rose fertilizer such as *Magnum Rose* or *Kelloggs or Gardner & Bloome*. A shot of *SUPERthrive* works wonders!