



A Publication of the Bowling Green Rose Society

Rosebuds

December 2013

E-mail: bgrs@twc.com

Christmas Dinner

December 6

6 p.m.

at

Home of

Ben & Pauline Matus

Reservations required by

Nov. 15

No Gift Exchange



Winterizing the BG Public Rose Garden *by Mary A. Hext, CR*

On a sunny fall morning last week, several BGRS members met at the public rose garden at River Walk Park to prepare the roses for winter. Ben Matus, Ricky Lockhart, Bob Jacobs, Sam Coffey and Mary Ann Hext "putting the roses to bed" for the winter months.

Ben brought a load of mulch and soil conditioner, Bob and Sam brought wheel barrows, and everyone brought rakes, shovels, and pruners. In less than two hours, roses were pruned, old mulch, leaves, and weeds removed, soil conditioner applied, and new mulch added. Hills were made around each bush to provide winter protection.

Thanks to everyone who helped with this society responsibility.



President's Corner *by Brenda Coffey*

Congratulations to BGRS 2014 officers: President Mary Ann Hext, Secretary Georgia Snyder, and Treasurer Bob Jacobs. I'm sure they will lead us well.

Wow, can you believe that 2013 will soon be history! It seems like yesterday I was meeting with the BGRS board and planning for 2013. I've appreciated the opportunity to serve as your president. It has been a very educational experience. Each of you have been helpful and supportive during my tenure and I'm sure the new officers can count on your continued support.

Thanks to Ben and Pauline Matus for hosting our Christmas dinner at their home on December 6 at 6 p.m. May each of you have a wonderful holiday season.



Winter Protection for Roses by Gus Banks, Philadelphia Rose Society

As we move further into fall and closer to winter we have to consider what we will do for our roses if anything. We have several options to consider. The first option is to do nothing more than to try and insure your roses are healthy as they go into winter. If they are healthy they should survive the winter with no extra work on your part. The second option is to provide some level of protection to some bushes. A third option is to provide very complete protection to all of your bushes.

The first option is easiest to implement. Continue to spray and water your bushes. When spraying now, focus on preventing the fungal disease of Black Spot and Mildew. These can hurt your plants most as we move into winter. I will focus on the second option because this is the level of protection I try to provide my roses.

But why do we need to protect at all since the rose bush should be strong enough to survive winter. By protecting your rose bushes you try to accomplish two things. The first is to make you feel better. You have done something positive to protect your roses from the harsh winter. The second is to protect your finical investment. As roses continue to get more expensive you don't want to have to replace a lot of bushes in the spring. One year one of our members didn't get his bushes protected before winter hit and he lost over 50. But then some consider this is a good opportunity allowing room to add new varieties.

When we protect we are not trying to keep the roses warm. We are trying to prevent the bud union and the canes originating from it from experiencing the freeze-thaw-freeze cycle. This happens on warm winter days when the sun warms and thaws the canes and then the night time drop in temperature freezes them again. This often causes the cells in the cane to rupture and die. In the spring when you see canes that have turned thin and black this is the cause.

If you don't want to protect all of your roses, decide which ones need it the most. Experience has shown that the lighter colored rose bushes need protection the most. Your white, pink, pink blend and yellow hybrid teas are the ones that seem to have the most damage in the winter. To go one step further I always protect newly planted roses for the first two years regardless of what kind they are. This is a good way to help your newly planted roses through winter and become fully established.

About the middle of October I start to save newspapers and make them into paper collars. I take two full sheets, four pages, folded along the seam. I staple three or four of these together top to bottom. I make up a lot of these to use. Then as the leaves start to fall I gather lots of oak leaves. Usually 30-40 full leaf bags are what I need. Each bag will take care of two to five bushes. I have found that oak leaves stay dryer than maple or other leaves. Because oak leaves don't mat the air space between the leaves provide more insulation. Maple leaves hold water and tend to turn soggy after a rain. In late fall I cut my very tall hybrid teas back to shoulder height. This helps to keep them from being blown back and forth exposing the roots to freezing weather. I then put the newspaper collars around the bushes with the seam up and the open part down stapling the open end together to close the collar. The paper collars will last all winter. I then fill the collars with the oak leaves. With miniatures I use the same technique but am careful not to fill the collars. Too many leaves can smother your miniatures. After I have finished I put a burlap wind break around the more exposed beds. Then I hope it turns cold and we get about six inches of snow. Snow provides great protection and water to the roses as it melts.

There are several alternatives to the material I use. In place of the paper collars you can use chicken wire, plastic collar or roofing paper. Instead of oak leaves you can use pine needles, mushroom soil, dirt or straw. If you use dirt don't take it from your rose beds. It will expose their roots. Whatever you use you want to insure that the bud union and the first six to twelve inches of the canes are covered. In the spring you need to remove all of the protection. I just spread the oak leaves I use as mulch and let it decompose in the beds. This adds lots of organic matter to the beds.

I usually try to get my protection in place starting earlier than most. The conventional method is to wait until after the first hard frost, usually around the middle of December. Occasionally a little late and winter may have already arrived. I usually try to get most of my protection in place Thanksgiving weekend. I have this long weekend off so have the time to do the necessary work. And it is usually still warmer then. I have experienced no problems by putting the protection on a few weeks early.

For those of you that want to provide more protection to their bushes there are several ways to do this. You can use rose cones. These Styrofoam cones fit over the entire bush after they have been cut back. Some rosarians build entire protective boxes around their beds. But they live further north than we do. There is also a disadvantage to them that small rodents find them to be wonderful warm and dry hotels in the winter. They also have to be checked regularly in the

Winter Protection for Roses *(continued from p. 2)*

spring to prevent disease from starting. There is also the Minnesota tip method where you in effect tip the bush over and bury it until spring.

There are many different views on how to provide care for your roses in the winter. Talk to different rosarians at our meeting and apply the information you feel will best suit your situation and roses.

Editor's Note: This article appeared in the November 2013 issue of The Rose, the newsletter for the Philadelphia Rose Society, Bill Kozemchak, Editor.



Bob and Ann Jacobs had roses for the November In-Club Competition.

Left: 'Golden Unicorn' and 'Amy Grant' in an oriental Arrangement by Ann

Right: Gracie Jacobs



Highlights of November Meeting

- A work day at the BGRS Public Garden will be November 20 at 9 a.m. Bring tools. Ben will bring mulch..
- Advice was shared on winterizing roses and places to purchase new roses for spring planting.
- The Christmas dinner will be catered and held at the home of Ben and Pauline Matus. Reservations should be made with Ann Jacobs along with a check for \$15.
- New 2014 officers will be: Mary Ann Hext—president; Georgia Snyder—secretary; Bob Jacobs—treasurer; Ben Matus—member-at-large?????
- Mary Ann Hext presented a program on the Tenarky and Nashville Rose shows..
- 2014 rose show date is tentatively May 31.

Winter Care for Knockout Roses

Videos of Interest



Let Mother Nature Take the Lead

Bill Radler, breeder of the *Knock Out* line of roses, shares his thoughts on how we should listen to Mother Nature when we care for our low maintenance roses in the winter months.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=q8voltEoSww&feature=related>



Tips on Planting Roses by Bill Radler, Breeder of 'Knock Out' Roses

Here are some quick tips on how to plant *Knock Out* roses by Bill Radler. *Knock Out* roses are the most disease-resistant roses on the market today, and are very easy to grow and manage.

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=le2lgHyPGGE&feature=mfu_in_order&list=UL

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Bowling Green Rose Society

c/o Mary Hext
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We're on the Web!!

www.bowlinggreenrosesociety.org



MERRY CHRISTMAS



Directions to the Matus Home

Come south on Scottsville Rd. 5.3 miles from where the new Natcher Parkway extension meets Scottsville Road. (It's marked #20 next to the signal lights.) Then you make a left at Boyce-Fairview. At the stop sign you'll see a little church to your right. Keep it on your right. At that point the street name will have changed to Claypool-Boyce. Go 2.1 miles from Scottsville Road to W.G. Talley, then make a right turn. We are down the hill 0.3 miles.

Shortly after you make the right onto W.G. Talley you will see a glow on the horizon. That's us. We are on the right across from the black horse fence. There is a street light and a sign reading "2552" in the flower bed beside the driveway. Three cars can park in front of the garage doors, nose in. The rest may park in the lawn on the right side of the driveway. PH: 745-9935.

IMPORTANT DATES

- Dec. 6: BGRS Christmas Dinner
- Feb 21-23, 2014: Tenarky Winter Workshop
- Feb. 27-Mar. 2, 2014: Nashville Lawn & Garden Show
- May 8-14, 2014: ARS National Convention, San Diego, CA
- May 31, 2014: BGRS Rose Show

2013 BGRS EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

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