



A Publication of the Bowling Green Rose Society

Rosebuds

March 2019

E-mail: bgrs@twc.com

Meeting:
March 10
WCEO—2 pm
Program: Sharpening
Pruners & Pruning Roses
Refreshments:
B & A
Jacobs

2019 Mid-Winter Meeting –A weekend of rose education & friends!

Several BGRS members—Dan Wernigk, Osei Thomas, Bob and Ann Jacobs, Lynda Gibson, and Mary Ann Hext—travelled to Franklin, Tennessee, last month to attend some or all of the Tenarky Mid-Winter Meeting previously known as the Tenarky Winter Workshop. A horticulture judges audit was held on Friday afternoon, followed by a nice supper and program. We heard excellent speakers at the seminars on Saturday and enjoyed a banquet on Saturday night. Some of us also attended the ARS Consulting Rosarian School on Sunday morning. We all came home with a few new roses!

At the business meeting, we learned that the date and location for the ARS National Miniature Conference and Rose Show has been changed to October 4-6, 2019, at the same hotel as the winter meeting in Franklin, Tennessee. Since this is the same weekend that the Louisville Rose Society had their rose show scheduled, we hope that they will be able to move to the September date that is now available.

If you were not able to attend the winter meeting this year, try to come next year as it is always a very good meeting to attend to learn more about our rose hobby.

ROSE TRIVIA: WHO WAS DR. HUEY? from a “Rose by Any Other Name” by Douglas Brenner & Stephen Scanniello

When talking about roses and rootstock, the rootstock Dr. Huey often comes up, but who was this gentleman? Dr. Robert Huey fought for the Union Army in the American civil war, became a Philadelphia dentist and was a serious amateur rose grower. He developed friendships with professional rose hybridizers of the time and was often sent new rose plants to test in his garden. (Below pictures of Dr. Huey the plant bush left and flowers right)

In 1898, he received three Killarney hybrid teas grafted onto Rosa canina. These were the first grafted roses Dr. Huey had grown and he was amazed to find that they outperformed all of the other roses in his garden. He began to research the suitability of various rootstocks for use in the United States. His studies led him to conclude that Rosa multiflora yielded the best results within a broad range of soils and climate conditions.

Over the years, Dr. Huey mentored many amateur rose breeders including Captain George Thomas Jr. In June 1919, Captain Thomas introduced a red climber named Dr. Huey. The once blooming rose was not a great commercial success but the plant was found to be incredibly tough!

During the 1950's, tests conducted by mass market nurseries determined that the best rootstock for California's rose fields was Dr. Huey. Dr. Huey might not be so pleased to know that the rose named in his honor is now used primarily as a rootstock. He probably would appreciate the fact that his choice Rosa multiflora is equally popular as a rootstock. However he would probably be overjoyed to learn that the rose Dr. Huey probably grows in more gardens than any other variety of rose. That it is grown inadvertently, maybe would stem his enthusiasm, however.

While researching this article we discovered that some gardeners choose to grow 'Dr. Huey' because a regular rose in their gardens. You would need plenty of space as the rose can grow 10 to 12 feet high and up to 8 feet wide!

This article appeared in the “Portland Rose Chatter”, newsletter of the Portland Rose Society, Rich Baer, Editor.



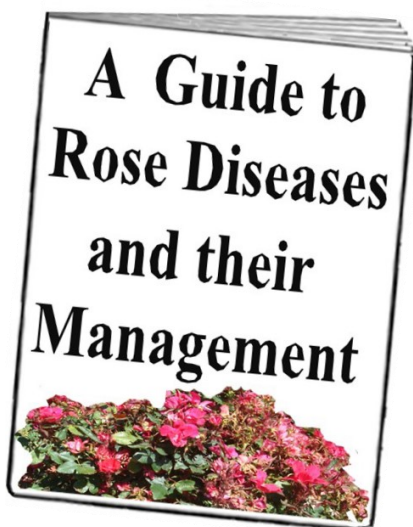
President's Corner *by Ricky Lockhart*

I would guess that all of you are looking forward to spring. It will be good to get in our rose gardens.

The next meeting will be at the New Extension Office on Russellville Road, Sunday, March 10, at 2 pm and I will give a lesson on pruning back your roses. Bob will be there with his sharpeners. Bring your pruners and Bob will clean and sharpen them for you.

Now will be a good time to get your soil checked and get ready to fertilize, lime and add nutrients. We will discuss some details about these procedures.

I hope to see you there.



Download this "booklet" from the ARS website for an easy reference to very useful rose care information by horticulturist Drs. Mark Windham, Alan Windham and Alan Henn.

(pdf format)

https://docs.wixstatic.com/ugd/b152c0_d42726a1f5b444d5967e72192a8b3c62.pdf

Pruners 101—Sharpening Your Pruning Tools

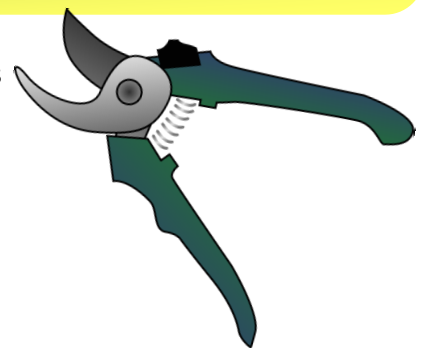


At our March meeting, ARS Master Rosarian Bob Jacobs, will teach/review us on how to get our pruning tools ready for spring pruning.

What is needed (Bob will have this):

- WD 40 ® or other silicone –based lubricant
- A sheet of sandpaper (400 grit) or/and an SOS pad
- A screwdriver
- A clean rag
- A wrench
- A sharpening stone or GATCO® Sharpening System

Bring your pruners and Bob will demonstrate and help us prepare our pruners!





MARCH ROSE TIPS *by Noah Wilson, Master Rosarian, Holston Rose Society*

So far this winter has been a mild winter and I have seen no winter damage to any roses. I will proceed with caution as we could have cold which damages roses attempting to send new growth out.

1. I will spray once more, maybe twice with lime sulfur.
2. I will move slowly with spring pruning and then not prune as low as I would have due to possible extreme cold coming and doing damage to my roses.
3. I will plant my new roses as they arrive using plenty of organic materials in the new holes, making my holes about 20 inches across and 16 inches deep. If a new bed, I will add perlite to loosen the soil, along with my compost, organic materials. If my soil is heavy clay I will use Gypsum (soil softener) to help loosen it.
4. I will check my fertilizer supply and get some in for the season upcoming. I will also get my spray materials for the new year.
5. I will clean and sharpen any pruning shears as needed to assure spring pruning goes well and leaves my roses ready to start a new season of blooms.
6. I will be ready to speak to garden clubs on how to grow roses easily and have beautiful blooms all season long with ease. My garden will be open for viewing at any time for the public and I will encourage others to start growing roses for pleasure and sharing.
7. I will now wait for late spring to come and start enjoying the fruit of my labor, which is a bountiful supply of beautiful roses, sharing them with everyone.

It's Time to Prune *by Patsy Williams, Master Rosarian, Houston Rose Society*



Editor's Note: This article appeared in the February 2018 issue of the "Rosette" the Houston Rose Society Newsletter. Dates for pruning will need to be adjusted for our area. The article is used with permission from the author.

Pruning is our way to assist Mother Nature along in her process of growing stronger and healthier bushes. While a rose bush will grow and bloom with no pruning, it will do much better with some assistance from you, the gardener. We usually begin about Feb. 14th. Pruning south toward Galveston can begin a week earlier, while north toward Conroe might want to wait a week to begin.

Having lost all or most of their leaves during December and January, it will be easier to see and evaluate the structure of your bushes. There are two ways to look at a bush which you are about to prune. You can look at them and decide what you are going to remove; or look at them and see what structure the bushes have that you are going to keep. These are the very canes that are going to produce healthier bushes for you during the year.

Let's first gather the tools which we will need.

- A good pair of leather gloves, to protect our hands.
- A good sharp pair of scissor action bypass pruning shears. Felco shears seem to be the brand of choice.
- A keyhole saw, to cut canes in tight places.
- A folding Felco saw, for cutting larger canes.
- Protective clothing, to prevent being scratched.
- Be sure that your tetanus booster is up to date.

How-to's

- Pull the mulch back from the bud union to allow the sun to hit the bud union and to enable you a better view of this most important part of the plant. Take good care of the bud union.
- Take a good look at the bush from the ground up. Cut off everything that is dead; don't allow anything dead to remain on the bush; and remove old, hard, and corky bark.
- Look for any "nubs" (those little short pieces of canes that were hard to reach, so you left them on the bush) on or near the bud union, and saw them off flush (smooth) with the bud union or cane. Be careful not to damage brand new growths on the bud union.
- Look for cross-over canes (two or more canes crossing each other in the middle of the bush). Crossing canes interfere with the growth and development of other canes and rub abrasions one on the other.

(continued on page 4)



It's Time to Prune *continued from page 3*

- Look for, and identify, 3 or 4 (or more, hopefully) good strong canes which can handle enough growth to produce the flower production which you wish. These canes should be at least the diameter of a pencil; thumb-sized would be even better.
- Take this opportunity to evaluate each cane for its productivity during the last year. The more productive that a cane was, the more that you want to encourage it to do the same this year, by pruning for maximum growth. Likewise, a cane whose only production was small, spindly (twiggy) canes and small blooms with weak peduncles (the stem between the first set of leaves and the bloom) would be a great candidate for removal (pruning away).
- Begin the pruning process with your miniature roses. Minis are cut back much farther and therefore will take longer to come into bloom. Minis react well to severe pruning. When a plant gets too large (after 3-4 years), it can be dug up and cut in two (making two plants out of one) during the dormant season. Minis are pruned 5 to 8 inches in height, depending on growth habit. While they will grow and produce if left taller, their productivity will be lessened. Severe pruning stimulates more basal breaks.
- Floribundas are the next to be pruned. Since they produce an inflorescence of blooms on their stems, they take longer to produce and open. Small canes with some branching are acceptable for floribundas.
- The heavy-petaled HTs are next, then all other HTs. Prune to strong canes with white pith in the center. Remove older woody canes, and leave newer more productive canes.
- The picture perfect rose bush will resemble a tall vase (an open center, with canes on the outer perimeter) when pruned. BUT REMEMBER, rose bushes are like people, not all are picture-perfect. You must work with each bush individually.
- Climbers are a different ball game. Most climbers bloom on mature wood (last year's growth or older). Older canes (3 - 4 years old) can be removed, if newer canes are available as replacements. Canes should be trained to grow horizontally for maximum bloom production.
- Old Garden Roses are pruned lightly. Like all other types, dead and twiggy canes are to be removed. "Pegging" is used to manage roses like Hybrid Perpetual. They grow like semi-climbers, with long arching canes. Long canes can be forced into contact with the soil, using either weights or pegged at their tips. A cane will then sprout where it is in contact with the soil, forming a spider-like plant.

General "Rules of Thumb"

1. Always hold your shears so that the sharp cutting blade is down toward the roots (the "fat" blade contacts the part that is cut away).
2. Make each cut at a 45° slant about 1/8 to 1/4 inch above an outward-facing eye. The eye should be at the topmost part of the slant. The slant of the cut is important, since it enables moisture to run off the cut, away from the eye.
3. Cut down to clean white pith in the center of the cane. Discolored pith is a sign of freeze or other damage.
4. Canes can be sealed with white Elmer's glue to protect them from insects (cane borers), etc. I used glue, until the task became too great to accomplish with the number of bushes in our yard. I still recommend it to Rosarians with a manageable number of roses.
5. Take this opportunity to remove as many "dog-legs" as possible. There is a tendency to cut a stem, leaving two or three eyes, and then do the same thing the next time we cut a stem, thereby making a "dog-leg" effect. Should you need to, or choose to, leave a secondary stem, at least two eyes must be left for future production (one eye will not do the job).
6. While there is NO set height to prune a bush, a good rule of thumb is to remove at least the top 1/3 to 1/2 off the bush. This can be adjusted to your own specification and space limitations.



It's Time to Prune *continued from page 4*

7. Prune to increase the airflow in the center of the plant by removing canes growing toward the center of the bush.
8. Remove secondary growths on the main canes that are not capable of supporting a stem (should be pencil sized or larger).
9. Do not be timid about cutting off a bud which is near the top of the bush. With proper pruning, new and better ones will reward you.
10. When pruning is completed, remove all remaining old foliage from the bush. ALWAYS clean up around your bushes and beds, and discard any findings.

After pruning is completed. It is time to begin your spray routine. **DO NOT WAIT** until new foliage begins to grow. This is to be done immediately after pruning. If you are pruning over several days or weeks, spray bushes "as-you-go", don't wait until you finish the entire garden. Spray both roses and mulch using a "clean-up" spray, consisting of both your favorite **fungicide** and **insecticide**. This is the only time of year that I will recommend that you spray an insecticide on the entire bush and bed. This spraying will help to eliminate over-wintering of both fungi spores, and insects and their eggs. Be aware: this will also kill any beneficial insects, too. Some rosarians choose to omit the insecticide at this time. Bare stems are hard to spray, but do.

TOOLS NEEDED FOR PRUNING—Carol Green, South Metro RS, Photos by Walt Reed

You will need by-pass pruners, a small pruning saw, by-pass loppers for the larger canes, heavy duty garden gloves, and buckets or trash receptacles for cleaning up the debris. All tools should be very sharp so that cuts are clean. Have a sharpening tool available for that purpose.



**Congratulations to BGRS member
Dan Wernigk**

**New Tenarky District
ARS Consulting Rosarian**

Rose Recommendation—from “A Year in the Rose Garden” by A. J. “Pop” Warner

Take care of basal breaks - they are the life of your rose bush. A basal break is defined as any large new shoot emerging from within 5 inches of the bud union or coming directly from the bud union. Some growers pinch off the tip at the first blunt bud when they get about one to two feet high; others let them go ahead and flower first. In either case, use extra caution not to break off the entire shoot. Remove old canes that would interfere with the growth path of these new canes as they are valuable to the life and longevity of the bush. Provide a light cover of extra mulch to protect basal shoots from frost damage.



Reprinted from the March 2019 Cenla Rose Society Newsletter, Billie Flynn, Editor



Lynda Gibson March 10

Potted Roses for Sale!
From the Nashville Rose Society
and
From the Tenarky Winter Workshop
\$15-\$25 each

A list will be available at our March meeting!

ARS Trial Membership Available



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BGRS Rose Show May 18

- Our rose show schedule will be available soon.
- Make plans now to enter. There are categories for novice exhibitors in horticulture and arrangements.
- Please purchase or sell an ad to help with expenses. Contact Ann Jacobs for information.
- Mark your calendars to help with the rose show set up on Friday afternoon, May 17.
- Volunteers are needed to help with the many rose show jobs. Contact Bob Jacobs or Kathy Dodson to help.
- If you would like to clerk at the show, contact Kathy Dodson.

E-mail: bgrs@twc.com

Bowling Green Rose Society

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We're on the Web!!

www.bowlinggreenrosesociety.org

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REMINDER

2019 Dues are Past Due!

If you have not paid, please send your 2019 dues to our treasurer or pay at the March meeting:

Linda McBride
1133 Lois Lane
Bowling Green, KY 42104

Ask a friend to join!!

2019 IMPORTANT DATES

- May 18: BGRS Rose Show at American Legion Hall
- September 21: Louisville RS Rose Show at Sutherlands Hardware Store
- September 28-29: Nashville RS Rose Show at Belmont University
- October 4-6: ARS Mini National, Tenarky & Carolina District Conventions hosted by Tipton County RF in Franklin, TN



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