

May 5
2 p.m. WCEO
Program:
First Blooms
A Panel Discussion

Refreshments 1:45 pm Linda Ford



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www.tenarky.org

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May 2024 www.bowlinggreenrosesociety.org

A Publication of the Bowling Green Rose Society

BGRS CRs at Herb Festival by Ann Jacobs, MR

A group of BGRS Consulting Rosarians had a table at the 25th Annual Herb Festival at the Wild Bird and Nature Store on April 27. While it was a windy day, they were welcomed by members of the herb festival and owners of the store. Bob and Ann, ARS Master Rosarians, Dan, Consulting Rosarian, and

Cindy arrived at 9 a.m. with informative rose society hand-outs.
Osei, CR and president, joined later.
The yellow 'Drift' rose guided visitors

over to smell the rose and talk. Fifteen people signed up to receive the bush. While no one joined, membership forms were taken with interest. Hollye James was very excited to win the rose and would have joined, but lives in Texas. The rose was to be planted in the garden her late husband had designed and built.



HERBS: HARD-TO-FIND HERBS! Basil - Lavenders - Rosemaries - Sages - Mints & More!
PERENNIALS: To attract Beautiful Butterflies and Hummingbirds to your garden.

2 DAYS ONLY-UNDER THE BIG TENT!

Garden Books, Garden Art, Bird Baths, Bird Feeders, Ready to-take-home Container Gardens

SUNDAY • APRIL 28 • 1:00 PM SHERB CONTAINER GARDENING

— SPECIAL EVENTS
SUNDAY • APRIL 28 • 2:30 PM
THE POWER OF HERBS
Fragrance, Companions & Eating

WEDNESDAY • MAY 1 • 1:00 PM THE POWER OF FLOWERS Learn how to attract beneficial insects, Butterflies and Hummingbirds

DIRECTIONS TO EVENT:

901 LEHMAN AVENUE
BOWLING GREEN, KY
From 1-65, Exit 26 (Bowling Green),
go West on Cemetary Pd. (RV 224)
2.5 miles. Turn Left onto Lehman
Avenue. The Herb Festival will be
on your Right at Mildtown Plaza.







NASHVILLE ROSE SOCIETY ROSE SHOW

May 25-26, 2024

Cheekwood Botanical Gardens Click here for schedule!

Front gate opens for exhibitors at 6 a.m.!

Rose show opens to public at 1 p.m. Saturday & 11 a.m. Sunday Exhibitor Number Required—contact Marty—<u>marty615@bellsouth.net</u>
Contact Mary Ann for pass if not exhibiting!—<u>mhext@outlook.com</u>



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President's Corner by Osei Thomas, CR

May is here. April showers have brought May flowers. This month rosarians in BGRS will setup at various plant events and upcoming garden tours. May this help raise awareness of rosarians like us are here to help and also join the fun world of showing roses. I think this will be an exciting rose year. And don't forget the Nashville Rose show also.

Osei



"If you look the right way, you can see that the whole world is a garden."

~ Frances Hodgson Burnett (novelist and playwright)



- May 11: SOKY Wild Ones Spring Native Plant Sale,
 8 am-1 pm, Community Farmers Market
- May 19: Bowling Green Garden Club Fairy Garden Tour
- May 25-26: Nashville Rose Society Rose Show,
 Cheekwood Botanical Gardens, Open to Public 1-5
 pm on Saturday and 11-4 pm on Sunday
- ◆ June 19: Cardinal Council Flower Show, at Historic Railpark, Free to Public 1-5 p.m.
- June 29: Kids on the Block Garden and Lawn Tour
- July 11: SOKY Wild Ones Native Garden Tour 5:30 7 pm, South Warren County

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May in My Rose Garden by Mary Ann Hext, Master Rosarian

My roses are finally starting to bloom especially shrubs and floribunda and M/MF have buds and a few blooms. My HTs are showing even more damage from the crazy weather we have now but all of them except two St. Patrick's, have at least some new growth. Quite a few of the ones with damage from 2022 look really bad, but I am waiting to see what they will do before digging them out. The RRV I found on 'Zephirine Drouhin' when pruning in March has not returned as I cut those long canes to the ground. I hoping it will be one of the 75% that survive from catching it early and removing the diseased canes. Time will tell!

Some things I am doing in May are:

- Continuing my spray program for blackspot with rotation of chemicals—so far, so good for this year!
- Watching for insect damage so I can spray bushes with water blasts as I am not planning to use any insecticides this year.
- Applying a second round of fertilizer next week which will include the last of my Mills Rose Mix left from last year now that I have switched to the "nitrogen" program used by Joanna Deck and Dr. Prabhu (and Ricky). (Article by Dr. Prabu included in this newsletter); then applying a liquid fertilizer, Mills EasyFeed, to encourage blooms for the NRS show.
- Studying the NRS show schedule to see what I might possibly enter in horticulture and arrangements.
- Deciding about replacing some of the HT's so I will have blooms by the Tenarky District Show which we are co-hosting with LRS.

Fertilizing Roses by Satish Prabhu, Master Rosarian

Few things change in how rosarians grow roses. After a few years of diving into this hobby, most rosarians would have studied different recipes to fertilize roses and eventually come up with a composite of their own, which they tend to follow very religiously and faithfully, because they are convinced that after talking to many winners and several rose gurus and reading dozens of articles and seeing scores of videos and reading a few newsletters, the American Rose and may be even a few books on how to fertilize roses, they are convinced they have accumulated a wealth of knowledge of the subject. And having exercised good judgement, they know they have settled down on a recipe for success. Of course, when one hears of this newly introduced fertilizer, "magic potion or elixir of life" and they learn that such and such successful exhibitor has started using this and claims that he has found additional success in doing so, they are tempted ever so little bit to add this one to their ritual, just because no one wants to be left behind and everyone wants to stay UpToDate on the latest inventions and introductions to the fertilizer world of roses!

A typical fertilization program may read something like this: After spring pruning, finish weeding the beds thoroughly. Then sprinkle some organic mix, maybe a proprietary brand or one that is locally available at the rate of two cups per bush and scratch it lightly into the top two inches of soil. Water well. When foliage appears, apply half a cup of 10-10-10 per bush. And sprinkle half a cup of magnesium sulfate per bush. Sprinkle evenly and water deeply. This will help grow dark green leaves. Two weeks later, apply a round of soluble fertilizer such as Miracle Gro for roses at the rate of one to two tablespoonfuls per bush, dissolved in water at the rate of one tablespoonful per gallon. A week later, apply fish emulsion at the rate of one tablespoon per gallon per bush, and repeat two weeks later. This will give you brilliant-colored blooms as the fish emulsion provides some trace elements most ordinary soils may be lacking.

Do you intend to exhibit? Oh! Well! Then you must do these additional things because your competition is certainly doing these things. Brew alfalfa tea by soaking six cups of alfalfa pellets in a thirty-gallon trash can. Stir every day and cover with a lid. In about three days, the smell will tell you it is ready to be applied to the plants at the rate of a gallon per bush. Then you can use a sump pump to do the dirty work. Just make sure you prop it up on a cinder block to keep it from getting clogged up by the alfalfa meal, which does clog it up any way. Want to do more?

Apply watersoluble fertilizing three times in this manner. The first application when the foliage appears, use something like 20-20 -20 or the Miracle-Gro rose fertilizer, or the Miracle-Gro 15-30-15 with trace elements and so on.



You can fortify your brew by adding a certain amount of Sequestrene, the chelated iron, magnesium sulfate and some other secret ingredients Yes, you also should strongly consider using Senn's N.O.G or the latest versions of the same. Don't forget Sea Kelp that will contribute over 167 rare trace elements and Humic Acids that make the nutrients in the soil available to the plant roots. And don't forget to add mycorrhizae to your soil. There are newly introduced root treatments which consist of spores of various types of soil micro-organisms that promise to make your soil healthy and your roses happy.

If you did not add lime as needed in the fall, it is not too late to add the same now. It will take several weeks for the lime to correct your pH if it is acidic. The ideal pH for roses is 6.5, although a range of 6 to 7 will work reasonably well.

I do not doubt that I may have not even heard some of the "latest things" and may have omitted others that I used to know.

So, is this what I recommend to an aspirant who wishes to become a rose grower or an exhibitor?

No !!!, Not at all!! Although I am guilty of trying some, most, or all those things in the past. In my earlier days of exhibiting, I used to tend to a huge rose garden consisting of 650 rose bushes. I did ALL the work myself and I also put in an average of 65 hours a week working in the hospital as an anesthesiologist, including some 24-hour shifts every week. I only had enough time to run. Run all the time from one task to another in the garden and run to work and back home. And I had absolutely no time to think what I was doing or why I was doing it. I was driven by a compulsion to "do something" all the time. I had little time for anything else. When I came home from work, if there was any sunlight left, I would be spending those hours (continued on page 4)

Fertilizing Roses by Satish Prabhu, Master Rosarian

or minutes doing something in the rose garden. On those weekends when I did not have to go to work, I routinely put in twelve hours each on Saturday and Sunday in my rose garden.

Towards the end of my rose growing days in Columbia, SC, two things happened. I retired from my job after working for forty years in one hospital and one group, and finally, I found some TIME to relax, sit down and think what I was doing and why I was doing it. I was also becoming increasingly aware that every soil test I sent, which I sent a minimum of twice a year, kept receiving reports saying that several nutrients such as P, K, Calcium, Magnesium, and iron have built up in the soil to extremely high levels and may be detrimental for successful rose growing. Those reports also stated that the only nutrient (fertilizer) I needed to add was a small amount of nitrogen and NOTHING ELSE! And I routinely filed away the report and resorted to following my own "fertilizing program for my exhibition roses" that had no

scientific or factual basis, whatsoever. Indeed, it was like the other hundred or famous exhibitors' formulae. And I would tweak it a little bit each year adding this substance discontinuing and something else, all on a whim and fancy. Why did I ignore the advice of the soil labs after taking the trouble to collect samples, package and send them to the lab, pay the fees and eagerly wait for the report? Note the pH of

your soil on your report, they said, and apply lime as needed. For the rest, rely on the experienced rose growers and the winners, because your soil lab is accustomed to doing the analysis and making recommendations for the corn, wheat, and cotton growers and not so much for the rosarians, much less the do the exhibitors. They analysis make recommendations based on agronomics and their experience that tells them that adding a certain amount of a certain type of fertilizer is likely to improve the yield in this field by a certain percentage. In doing so, they are giving importance to the cost of the inputs and the resulting returns. (ROI). Perhaps they do not realize we, the exhibitors won't mind spending some good money to

apply some specialty fertilizers because it might help us grow a few roses a little bit better than our competition, as in, better stems and foliage, longer stems, great form in the bloom, superior color, and substance, and so on. After all, each of these expensive magical things say so on their packages. Hmm! May be, there is something to this line of thinking. May be not!

Over the years, I requested to see the soil test reports from many well-known, successful exhibitors for the purpose of making a comparative study. And I noticed that any exhibitor that had a rose bed for a few years and had fertilized them repeatedly with bloom-booster type of fertilizers that had a high middle number had one thing in common. They all had excessive levels of P, Calcium and frequently, also magnesium, zinc, and iron, all resulting from ignoring the soil test report and applying fertilizers for competition. And the test reports always warned

that these excessive levels could be detrimental to your plants and your soil.

Although had managed to collect 100 national challenge class trophies over a period of about thirty years, I was noticing that something was not just right anymore. I was not getting the response mγ fertilizing program like I used to. As I continued

to assess the situation, the fact was staring me in my



Recent garden photo from Facebook page.

face! I was ignoring the reports and following "blind fertilizing programs" that included dozens of things, each of which was good for this, that, or the other thing. I had to make a change. Asking the question, "How can I fix this soil?" got a depressing reply that stated it would be a painstakingly slow process that included applying no fertilizers (NOTHING) that were not recommended by the soil test report, applying ample amounts of compost once or twice a year, applying a good layer of wood mulch and then allowing nature time to heal the soil. In fact, they said it would take a long time to bring down the excessive phosphates level. I saw the (continued on page 5)

Fertilizing Roses by Satish Prabhu, Master Rosarian (continued from p. 4)



futility and the foolishness of my fertilizing ways. The list of things to add had gotten longer each year as some successful exhibitor had quite innocently attributed his latest success to "something" he had newly used this time for the first time. And bang! Just like that, it became the latest and the best thing that every exhibitor must use, because it is good for something, and someone won because he used this. But nobody would really talk about what was lacking in his soil before he added this thing and what did this thing provide or newly introduced to his soil? Did a soil test identify a deficiency and does this substance provide that which is deficient in the soil?

Now determined to take control of the situation, I turned away from my "successful" blind fertilizing program. If the soil test said you only need to apply two pounds of nitrogen per thousand square feet of bedspace monthly, from Mid-March to Mid-August, that is all I applied as fertilizer. And yes, I added a good layer of leaf compost and covered it up with wood mulch. And lo and behold, the plants started to look and perform better. No, they did not sulk, complain, or exhibit symptoms of any deficiencies.

So, when I moved to Matthews, NC in 2020 after I had retired, to be closer to my family, I was determined to be a good boy and follow the good advice given by the soil labs. Now, to me, fertilizing means applying only what is lacking in the soil, as determined by a proper soil test, following their recommendations, so that there will be an adequate amount of all sixteen or seventeen elements that the plants need in available form. (Actually, C, O2 and H are provided in nature, in the form of air and water. And these three elements happen to be the bulk of nutrients/elements taken up, to the extent of 95% of all things taken up. Nitrogen, Potash and Phosphate are taken in decreasing order, something like 2%, 1% and 0.3% respectively). I have stated many times in the past that it takes two seasons to get newly planted roses or a rose garden ready for a rose show, yes, even a national show. I had an opportunity to test that statement and prove a point. I proceeded to lay out my garden in preparation for the national convention in Wisconsin in September 2021. My soil here is heavy and compacted clay with a healthy dose of concrete, steel and rocks and other construction debris graciously rolled into our yard by the builder's construction crew. The only soil amendment I added was the leaf compost available locally, supplied by the landscape supply stores in dumptruck loads. A soil sample wase sent and the advice was to use lime to correct pH, from 5,5 to 6.5 and to add two

pounds of nitrogen per 1000 square ft of bed space monthly, from Mid-March to Mid-August and nothing more. I met my expectations that I would have roses good enough to show in a national convention. We added eight more challenge class trophies in Wisconsin, and four more in Shreveport, LA, although we did not have any HTs to show that was held too early in the spring for us to have any roses blooming. That moved our total count of national challenge class trophies to 112. Considering the fact that the second-place holders' count is about 62 and the third place in the low thirties, although I am hanging up my hat, this record is most unlikely to be beaten.

My readers were perhaps expecting to see a recommendation for how to fertilize their roses, like a list of things and fertilizers to be applied regularly on a prescribed schedule. Yes, but doing so would be fertilizing blindly and business as usual with no concern for what is in the soil already and what is not. Can you still give a recommendation to someone who has not done a soil test? Yes. And in that case, I would say, do a soil test for the purpose of correcting pH if necessary. Then add two pounds of nitrogen per 100 square ft of bedspace monthly. Why? Because nitrogen is one element that does not last long in the soil. Once it is transformed into the nitrate form that is easily taken up by the roots, it may also leach off from the soil, and part of it may escape into the atmosphere in gaseous form and a part of it may be taken up by the plants. In any case, as the nitrogen level keeps going down, a small (continued on page 6)



An entry in the Lundberg Challenge class at the Columbia State Fair. It calls for five minifloras, any combination. The roses are: Swing Time, Mango Blush, Abby's Angel, RBG, and Ms. Mabel

Fertilizing Roses by Satish Prabhu, Master Rosarian (continued from p. 5)

amount of nitrogen may be safely added. Also apply about two pounds of compost per square ft of bed space and cover it up with a three-inch layer of wood-based mulch. This number came out of a study done by researchers at the Clemson university a while back, that showed when this amount of compost is added at the beginning of a growing season, it will be almost completely broken down in soil leaving behind very little evidence of having applied it. For the rest, wait for the soil test to show that something is lacking.

I will not say all these fancy things that people pay good money for is "bad" for your roses or your soil. I am merely suggesting that it will give you absolutely no added benefit if your soil already has it. A certain thing might be promoted with claims such as "contains 175 trace elements" and other things. But there is little evidence that it would be beneficial for your soil or your roses. Indulging in all these labor intensive and expensive things and processes makes the rosarian feel that he or she is doing something special for one's roses. So, the rosarian feels better, but not necessarily the roses. Same thing goes for all those other special biological additives. If your soil contains ample amounts of organic matter and compost, the necessary and useful soil organisms live there happily and there is no further benefit in adding small amounts (compared to that which already exists in the soil) of the biological additives. On the other hand, if your soil is depleted of organic matter, compacted, and poorly drained, what you have added may not successfully colonize and thrive in that soil.

Why not try just using compost, wood mulch and small amounts of nitrogen and correcting pH on half of your garden and see the results for yourself? Oh, yes, but you must allow some time for nature to work its magic. That would not happen in just one season. This method works for all types of soil, clay, loam, and sandy. Simplify your fertilizing program and enjoy immense benefits of saved time, money, and energy. Get the much-needed relief from a constantly nagging sense that you must do this, that and the other for your soil to get your roses going and that you are constantly falling behind because you are not able to give your roses what you think you need to give them. And transform yourself into a happy rosarian.

Editor's Note: Dr. Prabhu is a retired anesthesiologist. He and his wife, Vijaya, immigrated from India in 1975. They are both life members of ARS. He is an accredited judge, master Rosarian, and a successful exhibitor and she is a national award winning exhibitor in arrangements. He and his wife are currently ranked No. 2 for winning the total number of ARS National trophies. He writes many articles for the American Rose Society, maintains a Facebook page "Grow Roses with Satish" sharing his expertise and experience of growing roses for over 60 years, and provides rose programs for many local, district, and national rose society meetings. He has attended and spoken many times at Tenarky District events. This article appeared in the April 2024 issue of "The Bulletin" the newsletter of Bradenton-Sarasota Rose Society, Constance Vierbicky, editor. The article is used with permission from Dr. Prabhu.



CONSULTING ROSARIANS

BGRS
CONSULTING ROSARIAN

Robert Jacobs—270-781-2592
Ann Jacobs—270-781-2592
rjacobsa@gmail.com
Bowling Green, KY

Mary Ann Hext—270-781-8171
mhext@outlook.com
Rockfield, KY

Ricky Lockhart—270-999-1977
maryannlockhart@bellsouth.ne
Morgantown, KY

Osei Thomas—270-380-6176
edetailsuperman@gmail.com
Jetson, KY

Dan Wernigk—217-898-1770
danwernigk57@gmail.com
Rockfield, KY

Mary Ann Hext-270-781-8171

maryannlockhart@bellsouth.net

Preventing Blackspot—by Sheree Wright-MR, President of Greenville Rose Society

Prevention is key when it comes to the leaf spot diseases, especially black spot. Roses need morning sun and good air circulation to dry off. Wet leaves for more than 6 hours promote this ubiquitous rose disease. Hybrid teas, many floribundas and your miniature roses will perform much better if they are kept healthy and free of black spot. If your leaves start out with small black circles with feathery edges that eventually turn yellow and then fall off, you probably have black spot, but if the spots are small and purple, the leaves may instead be infected with Cercospora. (Want to learn more? Do an internet search on Diplocarpon rosea.) Cercospora is more likely to appear in the summer and on roses that are more disease resistant to black spot.

If you missed spraying for a week or two and black spot has overtaken your rose leaves, spray some Mancozeb (Southern Ag's Dithane M-45, Fore, Manzate Max, Protect DF, Bonide's liquid Mancozeb, etc.) Spray it every three days, for three consecutive times. Be sure to spray the top and bottoms of your leaves. Then get back to a regular preventative program (spraying every two weeks is best, but you can go up to three weeks if the weather is very hot and dry and you don't see ANY blackspot, and you are also combing it with a systemic fungicide). Daconil is also a good contact fungicide that works best before you see black spot; however, apply Daconil only in cooler weather, because it could burn your rose leaves if sprayed in hot weather. (Always water your roses the day before you spray if it hasn't rained within the last few days.)

If you have just a few roses, then BioAdvanced brand systemic fungicide with Tebuconazole, readily available at local big box stores, is sprayed on the leaves, and

there is a drench formula too. Many of us use a **propiconazole** systemic fungicide (e.g., Banner Infuse, -Maxx, Bonide's Fertilome systemic fungicide, Honor Guard) combined with Mancozeb, sprayed every two weeks (depending on the weather) to keep our roses pretty much disease free. Rotate any **systemic** fungicide like propiconazole or tebuconazole, with a different Mode of Action (MOA) such Thiophanate-methyl (Cleary's 3336F), or Pageant, and mix

with it a contact fungicide such as Daconil (spring & fall) or Mancozeb, every other spray. If you only have a few roses, BioAdvanced has a Ready-to-Use 3 in 1 spray will help control diseases, insects and spider mites. BioAdvanced All-in-one Rose & Flower Care is a liquid that you dilute and then water around your rose roots. Captan is a very good contact fungicide (Witherspoon Rose Culture recommends this fungicide), however, it has a Danger label, so be sure to read the label and use the PPE recommended. Bonide's Rose Shield is also a good drench option, and an American Rose Society recommended product, available at South Pleasantburg Nursery. Remember: abundant leaves are the key to keeping your roses healthy and productive.

Go to www.rose.org, click on the Education link and then the Diseases link. You will see a pdf publication, which you can download and print with excellent pictures and descriptions of different rose diseases. It is a great resource for anyone interested in knowing how to keep their roses healthy.

Editor's Note: This information was part of an article appearing in the "Greenville Rose Bud", newsletter of the Greater Greenville (SC) Rose Society, May 2024 issue, Frank & Rita Van Lenten, editors.

The image below is from "A Guide to Rose Diseases and their Management" by Mark Windham, Alan Windham, & Alan Henn which can be downloaded from the ARS website and was referred to above by the writer of the article. Here is direct link: <u>b152c0_d42726a1f5b444d5967e72192a8b3c62.pdf</u> (rose.org)

Spores of *D. rosae* require at least six hr of free water to germinate and plants to become infected (Figure 8). Therefore, black spot is favored by warm, wet weather. High humidity that preventsfoliage from drying quickly in the morning will also favor the disease. The fungus will also sporulate (produce spores) on defoliated foliage laying at the base of the plant. This is one reason why the disease seems to spread from the base of the plant upwards.



Figure 8. Black spot spores will not germinate unless exposed to free water (high humidity is not good enough). Care should be taken to reduce the time that leaves are wet each day.

Cultural controls for black spot include sanitation (cleaning of defoliated debris in late winter, early spring), proper pruning to insure good air movement through the canopy, and watering so that the length of time foliage remains wet is reduced (Figure 9). Drip irrigation can also be used to reduce the length of time that foliage is wet.

2024 ARS National Rose Convention Sailing on a Sea of Roses September 9-13 Warwick, Rhode Island

Hosted by: ARS Yankee District Click here for Information





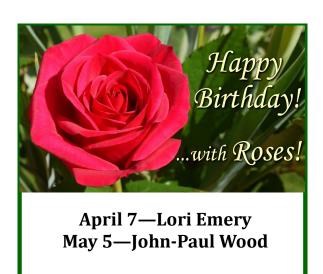
Tenarky District Fall Convention/Rose Show—October 4-5

"Vette City Rose Show"

October 5, 2024
Warren County Extension Office
Bowling Green, KY
Rose Show Schedule coming soon
at: www.tenarky.org







IMPORTANT DATES

- May 11-12: Birmingham Rose Society Rose Show, Birmingham Botanical Gardens
- May 19: Bowling Green Garden Club Fairy Garden Tour
- May 25-26: Nashville Rose Society Rose Show at Cheekwood
- June 8: IL-IN District Rose Show, Noblesville, IN
- August 17: Kentucky State Fair Rose Show, Louisville, KY
- September 9-13, 2024, ARS National Convention/Rose Show in Warwick, Rhode Island



2024 BGRS EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE



mhext@outlook.com