



A Publication of the Bowling Green Rose Society

Rosebuds

April 2015

E-mail: bgrs@twc.com

Meeting
April 10
WCEO
2:30 pm
Program:
Everything I
Know About Roses,
I Learned in Kin-
dergarten

Tenarky District Winter Workshop by Mary A. Hext, CR

Neither snow, freezing rain, sleet nor an ice storm could keep rosarians from several states attending the Tenarky Winter Workshop, February 20-22, in Franklin, Tennessee.

Friday night's dinner speaker was Cynthia Worch, president of the Nashville Rose Society, who spoke on "Growing Sustainable Roses—Nature's Way". Due to the ice storm, Carol Shockley from the Central Arkansas Rose Society was unable to attend in person, but sent an electronic copy of "Exciting Roses for 2015" which was her fifth presentation at the workshop.

"Social Media's Dynamic Potential for Roses" was an exciting topic presented by Teresa Byington from the Indianapolis Rose Society who is co-host of the popular [Rose Chat Podcast](#) and shares her adventures in the garden through her blog "[The Garden Diary](#)". Gaye Hammond, past president of the Houston Rose Society and member of the ARS Marketing Committee, spoke about "Marketing Your Rose Society" and was also one of the presenters at the CR School on Sunday morning. "What's New at Weeks Roses" was the afternoon topic for David Johnson, Weeks representative.

The workshop speakers joined in a panel discussion of "The Challenges and



Tenarky District Director Sam and First Lady Nancy Jones welcome rosarians to the winter workshop

Enjoyment of Roses" followed by a question and answer time. The two candidates for ARS Vice President, Sam Jones and Bob Martin, were given opportunities at different times on Saturday to speak and share their vision for the American Rose Society if elected during the upcoming 2015 Triennial election. The Tenarky business meeting was held as the final event on Saturday afternoon.

Over 20 varieties of Certified Roses from Tyler Texas were offered for a fund-raising sale during the weekend. Due to a weather-related delay in delivery, another 11 varieties from Weeks, along with unsold Certified roses, will be potted for sale to Tenarky societies during the growing season.

Following the Saturday evening banquet, Baxter Williams from the Houston

Rose Society entertained attendees with "Things I Wish I had Learned Sooner" and also presented at the CR school Sunday morning.

The Consulting Rosarian school had over 35 rosarians in attendance and resulted in three new CRs. Other presenters at the school included Clayton Beaty from Beaty Fertilizer, Ron Daniels from the Nashville Rose Society and Dr. Mark Windham professor at the University of Tennessee—Knoxville who also provided an update on current Rose Rosette Disease research.

Everyone attending agreed this was a most educational winter workshop.



Tenarky workshop speakers panel included Gaye Hammond, Baxter Williams, Cindy Worch, David Johnson & Teresa Byington (above) BGRS members, Bob & Ann Jacobs (below)



Rose Rhetoric by the Rose Heretic, Rich Baer, Master Rosarian

ROSE CUTTING TOOLS

Since I have been editing the Chatter I have gotten to write about many rose topics. Back twenty four years ago I was advocating the sealing of all pruning cuts with Elmer's glue or shellac to keep the cane borers from entering the recent cuts and doing whatever it is they were supposed to do. I earned the name Contrarian Rosarian shortly thereafter because my refusal to accept much of the generally accepted rose care lore at the time.

The suggestion of rose cane sealing went away after a study was made of the insect that was making the small holes in the end of the cane. It was found to be a carpenter bee which was doing no harm to the rose canes, and this was after I had spent hundreds of hours (maybe) sealing rose canes all sealing and suggestions of doing so ceased. There are still many rose advisers that strongly suggest that you should seal the cut tips to prevent this harmless insect from checking out your rose canes. Does adding this step to rose pruning make rose growing seem ... more difficult?

Every gardener needs tools to do the everyday upkeep of their garden, much of which is pruning in one way or another. I cannot imagine what gardening must have been like before the advent of cutting tools like we enjoy today. I imagine the early cutting tools were knives. I cannot imagine doing my rose pruning using a knife so I am glad that secateurs (pruning shears) were invented. I believe but I could not find reference to the first such tools but I believe that they were anvil type shears. They have a blade that cuts to a flat surface which holds the stem during the process. They were a great improvement over a knife but there were some jobs for which they were not very good. When anvil shears are used to prune fruit trees a tiny nub of stem is left the width of the anvil after the cut is made. This does not seem like a significant problem but that tiny stub would produce water sprout growth which is a non-desirable result. Therefore the bypass shear was invented. With this design the blade can be placed right up against the main stem when the cut is made and there is no little stub of stem left over. Since these shears were produced for a hard working industry they were made to a high quality. Therefore, they became the tool to be desired by all those who liked to work with good tools. For a long time the Swiss manufacturer Felco, founded in 1945, was the leading maker of these types of pruners. Today there are many other manufacturers, but if you ask almost anyone in the know about what is best they will tell you Felco, although now Costco seems to have come up with a shear that I am told is just as good at only half the price – time will tell.

Recently I came upon some literature written by rose instructors that said they no longer believed that the angle of the cut was important, (a big step in revisionary thought) but that they were teaching the proper method of holding your pruning shears to prevent damage to the plant during the pruning process.

Many years ago I bought into the rhetoric that bypass shears were the only kind to use on roses and since Felcos were the best ones being made they were the tool of choice. Bypass shears have one blade and it cuts the stem that is being held in place by what is called by Felco the anvil. This is a non-sharpened part of the mechanism, the only function of which is to hold the stem while the blade is being forced through the stem. The rhetoric I read is that the shears must be used with the cutting blade placed closest to the stem that will remain and the anvil side must be against the piece of the stem that is being cut away. The reasoning for this is that the piece of stem against the anvil will be crushed to some degree but that is all right because it will be discarded. The piece of stem next to the blade will not be crushed because the blade will make a clean cut through it. It seemed to me that since the width of the anvil is just slightly wider than the cutting edge of the blade, that there really could not be much of a difference between the piece of stem on either side of the cut. At least not enough to warrant people being warned that there is only one right way to make the cut. I always ask, "If we propose a rule, what are the consequences of breaking that rule?" If there are no negative consequences, then why is the rule being put into place? Every rule, if it is a rule, needs to be thought about every time the situation it pertains to arises. With that in mind, I took my Felcos and a collection of rose stems into the laboratory. Well, actually to the garage work bench.

I have four pair of Felco #6's so I had the tools to test. I gathered several different sized canes from the rose garden and went to work on them. I first made about 40 cuts with the sharp blade placed downward as I made the cuts. I watched closely as I made each cut to see if I could see any stem distortion as I forced the blade through the stem. Then I made the same number of cuts with the shears in the reverse position with the sharp blade placed upward and again closely observed to see what was happening to the cane during the process. Visually I could see (continued on page 3)



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Rose Cutting Tools *(continued from p. 2)*

no difference between the two placements of the shears. I stuck a number of stem pieces from each of the two cutting methods into a piece of Oasis so that I could observe them more closely and below is a picture of what I found.

I could discern no difference between the different methods of holding the shears while making the cuts on the bush. The stems on the left are the result from cutting the stem with the sharp blade facing the upper part of the bush, while the stems on the right are the result from making the cuts with the sharp blade facing downward. You will actually be able to see some very slight tearing of the bark in both groups of stems.

Neither of these shows any signs of the canes being even slightly crushed and the visual inspection of the stems while making the cuts indicated no signs of either side of the cane being compressed more than the other side. The conclusion here is that before you stop and think about which side of the pruning shears blade is in what direction, don't, just make the cut where you want to make it.

Then there is still the question of the anvil shears. A long time ago I helped pay for my college education in Botany and Plant Pathology etc. with a number of jobs. One of them was working for a landscaping company called Magna-Gro. Our specialty was the care of trees and shrubs. Because it was quite a small company each of us had and were responsible for our own tools. At that time I bought what I thought were the best tools available and they were all made by Stanley, which is still around. The tools that I used the most were my loppers and pruning shears both of which were of the anvil type. How do I remember this, well the Stanley loppers are still in the shed and get used now and then. I also bought another pair that I use more just because I thought you ought to update your tools every 30 years or so. After reading the following statement by a Master Rosarian, all I can think about was the mass destruction that I left in a swath across the cities near Columbus, Ohio, through the use of my inappropriate tools while I worked. Master Rosarian quote "I was called to visit a nearby gardener a few years ago. His roses all were exhibiting yellow streaks forming under the cuts. I asked to see his shears and he brought an anvil-type to me. I told him to throw them over the fence into his neighbor's yard and get a pair of bypass shears (I had my Felcos on my belt) and then showed him how to use them (anvil shears crush both sides of the stem cut). That cured the problem. I figure that bacteria were on his shears, causing the dieback." Another quote that I got from the internet when I was trying to get some up to date information about shears was that never use anvil type shears because they just totally crush the stems when you make a cut.

So I thought can they really be that bad since they were once the tools of choice. I did not own any anvil shears except my loppers, so I went to Orchards and purchased a pair of Fisker's anvil type shears. For over an hour I pruned roses in the garden to break them in a little and to keep anyone from saying, oh they were a brand new pair. Then I took them to the laboratory. I again selected a number of stems of various sizes to cut. After making fifty or so cuts, during which time I observed the stem close up during the cutting process, I was rather amazed at what I discovered. I did not observe any significant stem crushing at all. It seemed that the wider anvil gave better support to the stem being cut and actually there was less crushing that when the bypass shears were used. Heresy I know, but there it was. I never saw any scientific study about the stresses applied to the stem during the cutting with either type of shear, so I have to believe that all of the accounts about how they work is the result of assumptions which have been made by the user and writers as he/she looks at the tools and decides what exactly they can do. To permanently save the results of what I saw, I again took a number of the freshly cut stems and stuck them into a block of Oasis for a photo opportunity. You will see in the photo at the right that there are no signs of crushing any of the stems.

After seeing how the anvil shears worked, I went out to the tool storage shed and got out my really old Stanley loppers. After about five minutes of cleaning and sharpening I took them out into the garden and found that they did a really nice job on some of the larger canes that needed lopping.



(From the February 2015 issue of Portland Rose Chatter, Rich Baer, ed.)



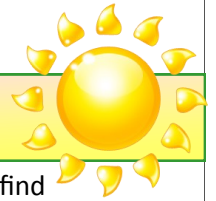
President's Corner by Mary Ann Hext, CR

Spring at last! So now our rose work begins; but it will be well worth it when we have beautiful blooms to enjoy until the frost next fall. My rose "to do" list includes weeding, checking pH again, starting my spring pruning, fertilizing, and then mulching. I plan to prune the first three weeks in April so I will have some blooms for our show, the Nashville Rose Show, and the ARS National Spring Convention and Rose Show in Columbus as I hope to attend all three. I have tried to calculate the dates (see below) but will stagger my pruning. I hope to enter arrangements at all three, so will have to decide on my containers and then try to prune roses that I would like to have to use in them.

Rose show plans are well underway. Certificates have been ordered, we have judges, and our schedule will be on our website and the Tenarky website very soon..

Plans are being made for our "After the Rose Show Dinner" to be held at the Hartland Salon and I will provide details at the meeting. Be sure you marked your calendars for the date which is Monday evening, June 1. Our district director, Sam Jones and first lady, Nancy, will be attending and Sam will be presenting an interesting program.

Make plans to be at the April meeting. Bob and Ann have a list of roses that will be available at Jackson's Orchard & Nursery to share. We are having an entertaining program and also a really nice door prize being donated by one of our members. See you there!



Pruning for our Rose Show by M. Hext, CR

With the hard winter for south central Kentucky, you are probably wondering as I am, what will we find when we start our spring wake up for our roses. When we see the forsythia start to bloom, we know it is time to get to work. I am seeing many black canes, but hopefully there will be a white center somewhere when I start pruning.

Remove all the dead canes and small spindly canes and any crossing branches. Shape the bush the way you want it to look. Cut the canes back to a healthy white pith. Remove canes smaller than a pencil. Keep the center open to allow air to circulate which will help to reduce the chances of disease and mites. Hard pruning (6-12) inches will produce fewer but larger flowers on thicker, longer canes. Little pruning or just shaping the bush will produce smaller but more blooms. We may have to prune more severely this spring due to our winter temperatures being much colder than the past few years. Don't cut back fortuniana bushes as much.

Since our rose show is May 30, you will need to prune a little later than we usually do, probably beginning around April 5 for hybrid teas which is 55 days before our rose show. Miniature and minifloras would need to be pruned about April 15 about 45 days til the show. Floribundas take about 60 days so cut the first week in April.



Rose Show 2014 (photo by M. Hext)

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Finger Pruning by Patsy Williams, Master Rosarian, Houston Rose Society

Well, you just thought that you were through pruning. Some of the most important pruning is done in the spring. It is called finger pruning. If you are growing roses for landscape and want lots of blooms and do not care about the size of bloom or the length of stem, this article is not for you. If you want long stemmed roses for the house, to share with friends, or to take to the show - read on!

This process is called finger pruning because it is done with your fingers (no shears allowed). The object is to rub off the unwanted bud eyes with your thumb or forefinger as soon as the bud eyes are large enough. Nature has a way of protecting its own; at each node there is the possibility of three eyes. The center one usually develops first, and if there is a frost that damages it, the two on the sides will break dormancy and begin to grow. There may be a time, however, that all three begin to grow at the same time. This will result in three small spindly canes instead of one large one. A knowing gardener will only allow one to grow at a node, usually the center eye. **The exception:** if the strongest eye is aiming toward another cane, remove the center eye and allow one of the side eyes to develop.

Caution must be taken not to disbud (finger prune) too severely until after the last frost date. Care must also be taken not to wait too long. You do not want to be forced to remove growth that is too large. Timeliness is the key. Should a frost come and damage the new growth, you can always prune down to the next dormant eye.

Good exhibitors will not permit more than two breaks per cane. Some will allow only one break per cane. Other growth is removed by finger pruning early in the season.

New growths pointed inward toward the center of the bush should be considered for removal, and "blind shoots" (terminal growths, which will be nonproductive) should also be removed by finger pruning.



BGRS Rose Show May 30 American Legion Hall

- Our rose show schedule is available on our website: www.bowlinggreenrosesociety.org and on the Tenarky site: www.tenarky.org
- 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 29.
- Volunteers are needed to help with the many rose show jobs. Contact Bob, Ann, Kathy, or Mary Ann to help. Some of the jobs are:
 - Rose show set up on Friday
 - Organizing food Saturday morning for rose show participants and judges
 - Organizing and collecting for box lunches on Saturday
 - Rose show tear down on Saturday afternoon
 - Selling roses
 - Putting roses in vases to take to veterans in nursing homes
 - Helping with ribbons, certificates, and prize distribution
 - Clerking at the show
- If you would like to clerk at the show, contact Kathy Dodson.

E-mail: bgrs@twc.com

Bowling Green Rose Society

c/o Mary Hext
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Rockfield, KY 42274



We're on the Web!!

www.bowlinggreenrosesociety.org



Connie Baird	April 18
Claire Campbell	April 4
Georgia Snyder	April 30

IMPORTANT DATES - 2015

- Feb. 20-22: Tenarky Winter Workshop & CR School, Franklin, TN
- Feb. 27-March 1: Louisville Home & Garden Show
- March 5-7: Nashville Lawn & Garden Show
- May 23-24: Nashville Rose Show
- May 30: BGRS Rose Show
- June 1: BGRS Rose Show Dinner
- June 11-14: ARS National Conference & Rose Show, Columbus, OH
- Sept. 10-13: ARS National Convention & Rose Show, Syracuse, NY

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