



A Publication of the Bowling Green Rose Society

Rosebuds

April 2016

E-mail: bgrs@twc.com

Meeting
April 1

WCEO—2:30 pm
Program:
Eastern Bluebirds

Refreshments
Norma Stevenson

What Good Rosarians Are Doing in March *by Sheree Wright, ARS Master Rosarian*

Rose buds are swelling, leaves are starting to grow, you can start **pruning** your roses if you have not already done so. Disinfect your pruners with alcohol between roses, especially if you had to cut through cankers on your rose canes.

Begin spraying your roses (especially on most hybrid teas, floribundas and miniature roses) after you prune your roses. **Black spot** is a fungal disease; dormant spores live in over wintered rose canes and old leaves. It lurks, waiting re-infect your lovely new leaves. Prevention is easier than trying to control it. Combine both contact fungicide Bonides' liquid Mancozeb or Dithane, available at local nurseries or many farm stores, or Pentathlon (available as a liquid or powder) with your favorite systemic fungicide, which could be Banner Maxx/ Honor Guard (propiconazole), Bayer's Advanced Disease Control (Tebuconazole), or Immunox's Multi-purpose fungicide or Eagle (Myclobutanil). It is too late to spray **Lime-Sulfur**. It could burn newly emerging leaves. Best rotate your systemic spray materials. This will help prevent either fungal spores or insects from becoming resistant from using the same chemicals over and over.

Want to reduce rose maintenance, especially spraying? Avoid hybrid teas and select disease resistant roses if you want to avoid chemical sprays. Start out with spraying some type of anti-desiccant to your new leaves, like Wilt-pruf or FreezePruf. Keep your roses well watered and fertilized. Spray rose leaves with some type of seaweed or worm

compost. Healthy roses have better immune systems! Axiom has replaced Messenger (go to Rosemania.com to read about it). Espoma and Bayer now offer an organic line of ready to use products which are available from the big box stores. Don't forget about visiting your favorite local nursery for organic suggestions.

SOIL TESTING: If you haven't had your rose beds tested for pH and other nutrient content in two years or more, you really should do so now. The local extension service provides the packages. Follow the instructions, pay your \$7 and you will learn a lot from the results. (Our Consulting Rosarians can help you understand the results if you have any questions. Do you know when the last time you applied lime to your rose beds? Roses do best in a soil pH in the 6.5 range.

Organic fertilizers, like Shealy's Purely Organic or Mill's Magic Mix, take warm soil temps and time to break down. Apply late-March through mid-April for results later (soil temps need to be in the 60 degree range for micro-organisms to begin break down the organics into a form available for your rose roots). Roses also love compost or manures applied around their roots. Apply a shovel or two of mushroom compost or cow manure around your roses (but not next to the rose canes) and see how your improved soil encourages healthy new cane growth and basil brakes. Miniatures really like fish emulsion, about 1 Tablespoon per 2

gallons of water. Neptune's Harvest has several great products, I like the fish/seaweed combo liquid. Using a slow release rose food, combined with an organic based food will ensure that your roses are well fed.

SPRING TONIC APPLICATIONS.... Use Epsom salts (Magnesium Sulfate) at 2-3 ounces per bush (a little more for large bushes), dissolved in water, or water thoroughly after you sprinkle it around each bush. It's also a good time to apply Gypsum (Calcium sulfate), about ½ cup per bush. It won't change your soil pH. Scratch into soil for best results; always water in thoroughly.

CONTROL Aphids with water, Safer's Insecticidal Soap, Malathion or Bayer's Rose and Flower insect spray. Aphids are already on your roses and can multiply rapidly. Repeat in 3 days to break their reproductive cycle.

NEWLY PLANTED ROSE BUSHES must not be allowed to dry out. Don't be in a hurry to remove protective mounds of pine needles, soil or mulch. Cold winds and bright sunshine can dry rose canes rapidly. Once you see a few inches of new leaves, then gently wash away soil and mulch.

ALL ROSES NEED CONSISTENT WATERING during periods of growth. Apply at least one inch each week, if we don't get any rain; get a rain gauge or use a tuna can to keep track of weekly rainfalls. A good soaking with water is like feeding ... it makes nutrients available to the roots. When in doubt, water some more, assuming you have good drainage. Poorly drained (*cont. p. 2*)



President's Corner *by Ben Matus*

A couple of weeks of really outstanding weather is behind us. This day is gray and chilly. But, the forsythias are in full, gorgeous bloom. Daffodils have been up for a while now. I've mowed once already and sprayed for black spot. More glorious spring weather is predicted for next week. Weather wise, it's time to prune. Calendar wise, not so much.

So, to prune or not to prune? That is the question. Or... Aye, and that's the rub! Decisions, decisions, decisions. Past bad judgment argues it both ways. I remember well late March and early April freezes that destroyed tender new growth as well as whole plants. However, I also remember early springs where I waited and the job was so much harder due to all of the new growth one had to work through.

I think I'll split the difference and start toward the end of the month if the weather holds and the long range forecast is favorable. Our three Knock Outs are already well leafed out, so we'll get them first, I think. Then we'll get the other shrubs. If for no other reason than that they seem to be hardier plants than the grafted hybrids. Hopefully a late freeze won't damage them so much, should it happen.

We have found a young lady that would like to learn to grow roses. She is going to help us out in a sort of paid internship. She'll be doing most of the pruning. It will probably be best to start in the back beds for her to begin to learn. That way by the time she gets into the courtyard she'll have a better handle on the process.

Some of our best roses are in the courtyard, still. Perhaps we can count on some of them being ready for our rose show if we prune them a little later. All ya'll know that we don't exhibit, but we will be bringing a few to jam in a vase and help fill the tables.

Here's to no late freezes and beautiful roses this season for all of us. Happy spring!

What Good Rosarians Are Doing in March *(continued from p. 1)*

soil rots rose roots.

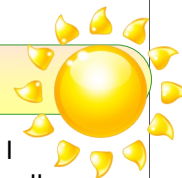
WAIT TO APPLY MULCH until after our soils warm up, sometime in late April to early May. Soil temperatures are still cold right now. If you had trouble with weeds last year, after you mulch, get yourself some Preen or Amaze or XL, which is a pre-emergent weed (without fertilizer) and sprinkle around your rose beds, wash off any granules that get on your leaves. You'll want to have already scratched in your fertilizer before applying Preen. When the forsythias have started to bloom, that is the signal to put down your lawn pre-emergent too. Shredded pine bark, or mini-pine nugget mulch is highly recommended, but pine needles are good too. Mulch helps keep soils moist, temperature even, and suppresses weed growth.

USE INSECTICIDES only when you see a problem. Identify the pest before you spray. Allow nature to assist in the natural control process. Thrips shouldn't be a problem for another month. Use broad-spectrum controls sparingly, or you may cause a spider mite problem later.

inch each week, if we don't get any rain; get a rain gauge or use a tuna can to keep track of weekly rainfalls. A good soaking with water is like feeding...it makes nutrients available to the roots. When in doubt, water some more, assuming you have good drainage. Poorly drained soil rots rose roots.

From the "Greenville Rose Bud", newsletter of the Greater Greenville Rose Society, March 2016

Pruning for our Rose Show *by M. Hext, CR*



As the forsythia is blooming, we know it is time to get to start our spring pruning and fertilizing. Although I have lots of leaves on my bushiness, I also have many black canes. Remove all of these 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 21, you will need to begin pruning hybrid tea roses the first week in April and small roses. Shrubs and floribundas should be pruned the last week in March.

SnapShot on Spring Rose Pruning *by Diana Klassy, ARF Master Rosarian*

Why Prune Roses?

- Essential to good growth and flowering
- Stimulates new growth
- Keeps plant healthy, more productive, controls size
- Encourages growth in a particular shape or direction

Pruning Tools:

- By-pass type hand shears (anvil type crushes the cane)
 - Lopping shears for bigger canes
 - Pruning saw
 - Sturdy gloves and arm protection
 - Cane sealant (wood glue, nail polish, etc.)
 - Ladders & ties for climbers
- Basic Steps:

Basic Steps:

- Prune in late March or when the forsythia bloom
- Remove dead, damaged, diseased canes (the three D's)
- Remove all weak and twiggy growth
- Open center of plant to improve air circulation and let in light
- Shape the bush
- Cut to reveal creamy white pith in center of cane
- Final cut at a 45° angle ¼ inch above a bud eye

Pruning Hybrid Teas, Floribundas, & Grandifloras Roses:

- Reduce to 5-7 good, healthy canes
- Each cane about 12-18 inches tall

Miniature Roses:

- Reduce to 5-7 good, healthy canes
- Each cane about 8-10 inches tall

Shrubs and Old Garden Roses (repeat bloomers):

- Reduce height by 1/3
- Reduce number of canes by 1/3 (remove older, non-producing and thinner canes)

Climbing Roses (repeat bloomers):

- Most climbers bloom on old canes, so leave lateral canes about 6 inches long
- Remove the oldest canes to the bud union
- Remove twiggy growth to open, thin

Clean-up after pruning:

- Clean up 'prunings' and take to dump or burn
- Do not compost as the leaves and canes harbor fungi
- Disinfect tools with rubbing alcohol or a solution of 1 part bleach to 9 parts water

*From "The Capital Rose," newsletter of the
Arlington Rose Foundation and the
Potomac Rose Society*

BGRS Rose Show—May 21



- 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.
- For the first time, we will have a rose photography section. Look at the schedule, then go through your rose photos and find ones that you can enter.
- Please purchase or sell an ad to help with expenses. Contact Ann or Ben for information.
- Mark your calendars to help with the rose show set up on Friday afternoon, May 20 at 1 pm.
- Volunteers are needed to help with the many rose show jobs. Contact Bob, Ann, Kathy, or Mary Ann to help. We have volunteers for most of the jobs listed below; but if you were not at the March meeting, please let us know where you are able to help. We will go over this at the meeting Friday.
 - Rose show set up on Friday—everyone
 - Organizing food Saturday morning for rose show participants and judges—Ann & Norma
 - Organizing and collecting for box lunches on Saturday—Ben & Ann
 - Rose show tear down on Saturday afternoon—everyone
 - Selling roses—Pauline, Georgia, Maxine
 - Putting roses in containers to take to veterans in nursing homes—Mary Ann, ??
 - Helping with ribbons, certificates, and prize distribution—Norma, Claire, MA
 - Clerking at the show—Maxine, Georgia, Ann, ??? (need 3 more)
- If you would like to clerk at the show, contact Kathy Dodson.

Be sure to save cans and plastic containers to put roses in to take to the nursing homes. Please rinse out the containers and remove the labels.

Bring these to the next meeting to be stored in Mary Ann's barn.

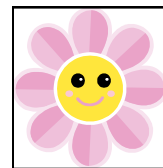
E-mail: bgrs@twc.com

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 - 2016

- May 21: BGRS Rose Show
- May 28: Huntsville Twickenham Rose Show, Huntsville, AL
- July 29-31: M/MF National Rose Show & Convention, Harrisburg, PA
- September 23-25: Tenarky Fall Rose Show and Convention, Nashville, TN
- October 1: Louisville Rose Show

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