



A Publication of the Bowling Green Rose Society

Rosebuds

December 2019

E-mail: bgrs@twc.com

Christmas
Potluck
Luncheon

December 6
Noon
Eat at 12:30 pm
WCEO

Why Bother Growing (Old) Roses? by Paul Banish, Detroit Rose Society



Many of our rose societies (at least here in Michigan) are dying on the vine. People are so busy and are stretched so thinly that, presumably, they don't have time for such an anachronistic organization as a rose society, nor can they be bothered to even grow a rose garden, with or without a rose society. Some neighbors of mine have recently taken to digging out their front shrub border and replacing it with a "lovely" bed of **plastic** flowers! No fuss, no muss, no work, and instant color of whatever shade your heart desires, right? This horrible ultimate "garden" of tackiness can be seen from some distance away, and it boggles my mind that people could have such a lack of taste and appreciation for nature. The truth is that we need living growing plants in our lives perhaps now more than ever. We are weary of all the chaos and hubbub around us, whether in Washington or in our own families. The poet Wordsworth's line "The world is too much with us" is as true now as it was when it was written over two hundred years ago. We need a peaceful refuge from the noise, the crime, the lies, the finger pointing, and, at least for me, that refuge has always been found in the garden. I really am the happiest when I can lose myself in a garden of any kind, but most especially in a rose garden. The beautiful shapes, colors, and fragrances are better tranquilizers than any overpriced pharmaceutical.

One might legitimately claim that roses require too much time and attention, although I could argue that point with a couple of counter arguments. Firstly, how much is your health and peace of mind worth? The time and attention required by your roses is preventing you from worrying about the state of the country or the world. Physical labor, provided you are physically able to perform such work, is good for the body and the soul. Gardening activities are some of the best forms of exercise, which is needed for health and that all-important sense of well-being. It reduces stress, as does just sitting and admiring your roses, the fruits of your labor. We do not always need to be on the run, chasing after this or that responsibility, seeing that the kids or grandkids are constantly occupied with some sort of sport or activity, staring anxiously into our smart phones for the latest unimportant text messages, etc. Secondly, if you do a little research, you will find that there are roses that do not require all that much slavish devotion. Consider the albas or the rugosas, which, in my experience, are among the healthiest and hardiest roses that anyone could grow. While it is true that the albas are once-blooming, I treasure them more because of their scarcity. The abundance with which many of the once-blooming old garden



Amy Robsart—Hybrid Eglanteria
Rating 8.3 Introduction 1894



Stanwell Perpetual—Hybrid Spinossima
Rating 8.4 Introduction before 1836



Grootendorst—Hybrid Rugosa
Rating 7.9 Introduction 1936

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President's Corner by Ricky Lockhart

Happy Thanksgiving Rose Growers

It looks like we will have an early winter this year. I had single digit temps two weeks ago and several freezes since. You need to winterize as soon as you can. I went ahead and got mine done two weeks ago. It was earlier than usual but with the low temps, I noticed some roses had suffered some severe damage. A lot of canes had brown centers way down.

Our Christmas Dinner is December 6 at 12 noon at the center where we have our meetings. I am sure it will be very good and I hope to see everyone there.

Ricky

Winterize Your Roses from Heirloom Roses

It's that time of year when gardeners need to think about caring for their roses to keep them healthy and strong through the winter months. Protecting roses from the coldest, windiest months of winter is paramount to next season's success! Your action now will reward you next spring and summer with beautiful blooms on healthy canes!

Winterizing Roses For Zones 7-13: Winterize your roses by adding a 2-3" layer of mulch to insulate roses during potential cold snaps.

Winterizing Roses For Zones 1-6:

Hilling Soil: Pile or "hill" up loose soil around the base of the plant. Do not scrape the soil from around the plant for mounding, rather, bring in extra soil. Soil should cover the center of the rose and form a mound at least 12" high and wide. After you 'hill' your roses, cover the soil mounds with mulch such as straw, fir boughs or branches.

Using Styrofoam Rose Cones: Be sure to follow these directions carefully as Styrofoam Rose Cones must be used correctly to avoid damage. Styrofoam Rose Cones can be purchased from Amazon.

First, do not cover plants too early. Follow the same timing guidelines as other methods. Second, the cones need to be well ventilated so heat does not build up on the inside during sunnier winter days. Cut four or five one-inch holes around the top and bottom of the cone to aid in ventilation and to keep the air inside the cone from heating up.

Before you place the cone over the rose, mound soil up around the base of the rose (if you are trying to protect a more tender variety, you can remove more off the top of the cone and fill the inside with straw). Place a weighted object on the cone to keep it from blowing away.

Laying Down your Rose and Covering: Climbers and larger Shrub Roses are more challenging to protect. In very cold climates, Climbers may need to be detached from their support and bent to the ground and covered with soil, mulch, or straw. When laying Climbers down, be careful so canes aren't damaged or broken. If roses need to be left on their structures, straw and burlap can be placed around the canes, and the entire support structure should be wrapped and tied. Roses grown in pots and other containers should be prepared and protected before your first frost. Pruning the canes back to 18"-24" and removing any damaged or diseased foliage will prepare your plants to go dormant for the winter and make storing them easier.

Protecting Container Roses for the Winter *source unknown*

Pots should be moved and stored in an unheated garage, shed, barn, greenhouse or other enclosed protected space. A window is preferred, but is not necessary for your rose to survive. Protecting the rose from direct frost sitting on the plant is important. **Do not bring the roses inside the home, they will not thrive and could die.**

Water the roses slightly before putting them in the unheated protected area and water them a few cups every few weeks. Roses do not need much water while they are dormant. Do not fertilize roses while dormant. If your potted roses are too large to bring into an unheated protected space or you do not have one, wrap the outside of the pot and the canes in burlap, leaving the top still open so that you can water it or it can get some rain water. You can also make a temporary enclosed space with tarps.

After the last frost in the spring, take your potted roses outside and prune a couple inches off of the canes to stimulate new growth. You should begin to see new growth within a few weeks and can resume fertilizing every 3-4 weeks as needed.



Why Bother Growing (Old) Roses? (continued from p. 1)

roses bloom more than makes up for their lack of repeat bloom. Give them a try!

The low-maintenance types of roses like the “Carefree” or “Knockout” series have become quite popular, but even those still require some sort of work. I can’t tell you how many bushes of “Knockout” roses I’ve seen with a bunch of dead woody canes surrounding a few tufts of green growth deep in their centers, with an occasional bloom, due to the terrible devastation of last winter. For a little more effort and a lot more beauty, the “gardeners” who planted them could have grown any one of many roses, including old garden roses with amazing sepals, prickles, foliage, and blooms with wonderfully intricate shapes, subtle colors, and strong appealing fragrances. Consider the Moss roses, especially the once blooming Mosses derived from *Rosa centifolia*. The fluffy green “moss” on the sepals is really lovely, especially when contrasted with the color of the buds when just starting to open. If you would like to see a rose with prickles that are even more beautiful than the flowers, try growing *Rosa sericea* ‘Pteracantha’, sometimes called the Red-Winged Rose (how’s that for a Detroit sports lover’s rose?) or Wingthorn rose, with its huge translucent red prickles that are so highly prized by arrangers. Would you like to see unique and attractive foliage on your roses? Try growing the Albas, with their healthy blue-green or gray-green leaves, the Rugosas for their thick deeply veined mint-like foliage, or the Kordesii ‘Dortmund’ with its extremely glossy leaves. There are even roses with fragrant foliage, such as the green apple scented varieties of *Rosa rubiginosa* (formerly known as *Rosa eglanteria*) and others. Do some research, using your own books or even books from the library! It’s fun, educational, and you can enrich your lives and your gardens immeasurably.

In summary, I just want to urge all of our readers to not give up on roses or rose societies. Former District Director Rick Robertson used to tell me that the friends he made and the travels he undertook in pursuit of this wonderful hobby were things he never regretted. I hope that that we all could eventually feel the same.



Tour de Malakoff—Centrifolia
Rating 7.3 Introduction 1856

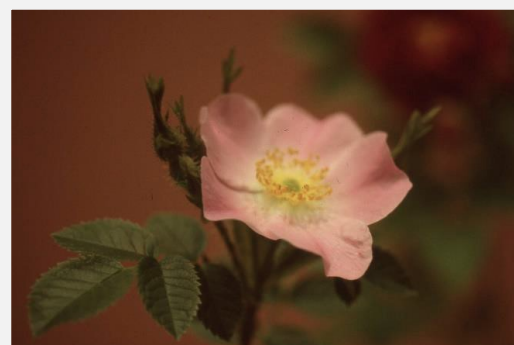
This article appeared in the November 2019 issue of ‘Rose Lore’, newsletter for the Detroit Rose Society, Roman Kwarczynski, editor; and is used with permission from the editor and the author. Photos courtesy of Paul Banish.



Coquette desrosas er Blanches—Bourbon
Rating 8.2 Introduction 1871



Mme. Legras de St. Germain—Alba
Rating 8.1 Introduction Before 1846



Rosa Rubiginosa —Hybrid Eglanteria
Rating 8.4 Introduction Before 1551



Baronne Prevost—Hybrid Perpetual
Rating 8.5 Introduction Before 1841



No regular BGRS meeting in January

Board will meet in January

Date TBA

Next regular meeting is February 9

2020 dues should be paid at February meeting!!

\$15

Why Did My Rose Bush Die? by Robert B. Martin, Jr., ARS President

You failed to water.
 You pruned too hard.
 You ran it over with a car.
 The nursery mailed it without roots.
 You killed it with those gardening boots.
 You left the bush wrapped up in plastic.
 You broke the roots. They're not elastic.
 You left it baking in the sun
 While you departed at a run,
 To find your shears, perhaps a trowel,
 Meanwhile the bush threw in the towel.
 You left it soaking in the tub,
 It turned to mold; aye, there's the rub.
 You threw alfalfa in the hole;
 The toasted roots were like charcoal.
 You planted it in too much shade.
 You used a contaminated spade.
 You planted it without a cone.
 You picked the wrong rose for your zone.
 Too high pH. It hated lime.
 Alas, it needs a gentler clime.
 Your ground is drenched with motor oil.
 You should do something to your soil.
 Too rich. Too poor. Such wretched tilth.
 Your soil is clay. Your soil is filth.
 You failed to water. You pruned too hard.
 You ran it over with a car.
 The fallen oak produced a rot.

The leaves turned brown, it went to pot.
 You killed it with an herbicide.
 You scattered Round-Up far and wide,
 Gophers descended underground,
 They ate your roots and stayed around.
 The winter rains propelled a spore
 Of downy mildew and much more.
 Perhaps you sprinkled from above.
 You should have talked to it with love.
 The summer sun burned up the crown
 And caused the canes to all turn brown.
 You failed to stake; the north winds blew,
 The candelabra fell, the rest fell too.
 You fed too little; you watered too much.
 You sprayed the bush with heavy touch.
 You foliar fed with Miracle-Gro.
 Forgot to measure—who was to know?
 The bush was virused from the start.
 You bumped it with the gardening cart.
 The whacker whacked a basal break.
 More pain than e'en the rose could take.
 Companion plantings grew like weeds.
 It disappeared among the reeds.
 You failed to water. You pruned too hard.
 You ran it over with a car.

—Reprinted from the 'South Metro Rose Gardner
 October 2019, Cindy Dale, Editor, Adapted from
 "Why Did My Plant Die?" by Geoffrey B. Charlesworth.



Highlights of November Meeting

- Ricky Lockhart and Bob Jacobs gave program on methods of winterizing roses. There were questions/answers and discussion about the topics.
- BGRS 2020 officers elected: Ricky Lockhart—president; Ann Jacobs—secretary; Dan Wernigk—treasurer; Jake Gibson—member-at-large; Bob Jacobs—past president.
- Christmas Luncheon is December 6 at the Warren County Extension Office from noon-3 pm.—potluck. Linda Ford is hostess. Sign-up with her for what you are bringing.
- Thanks to those who brought roses to share at our in-club competition.

UPCOMING TENARKY EVENTS SAVE THE DATES!

**Tenarky Mid-Winter Meeting
February 14-16, 2020**

**Franklin Cool Springs Marriott
Franklin, TN**

**Educational Speakers
Consulting Rosarian School**

Registration Information Coming Soon!!

**Rose Photo Contest
at the
BGRS Rose Show
Start looking through your
rose photos and choose
some to enter!
Schedule coming soon!**

Rose Tips *by Noah Wilson, Master Rosarian, Holston Rose Society*

Things I will be doing to my roses in December:

1. If killing freeze has not killed the growth of my roses I will continue to spray with my regular spray program.
2. I will bottom prune all bushes, cleaning out the dead and weak canes and clearing the bottom leaves out up to about 12 to 16 inches high.
3. After the temperature has dropped to mid-twenties a couple of times and all rodents, like mice and chipmunks, have found a winter home somewhere else, I will begin winterizing my roses by mulching over the bud union with a good mulch some 3 to 5 inches deep. I will put about 4 inches of mulch over the entire bed area to protect the roots of my roses from being damaged.
4. I will cut my top canes back leaving my bushes about 5 feet tall so the strong winter winds will not whip them back and forth leaving a large area open around the base of the bush.
5. I will remove any unwanted bushes from my garden and prepare the holes for a new rose in the spring. I will use 1/3 topsoil, 1/3 humus, and 1/3 perlite or sand. I also put 2 cups of Mills Magic Mix in the hole mixed in well.
6. I will keep an eye on my roses even though I have put them to sleep for the winter, making sure no animal has dug around them or damaged them.

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We're on the Web!!

www.bowlinggreenrosesociety.org



**DECEMBER AND JANUARY
BIRTHDAYS**
Mary Ann Hext—December 18
Kathy Dodson—January 26



**MERRY
CHRISTMAS**



BGRS

Christmas Luncheon

Warren County Ext. Office

December 6 eat at 12:30 pm

Arrive earlier with your dish!

*Meat, drinks, cups, plates and
utensils will be provided.*

**2020 ARS Calendars
for sale at www.rose.org**



2019 BGRS EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

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IMPORTANT DATES

- February 14-16, 2020: TENARKY Mid-Winter Meeting, Franklin, TN
- May 30, 2020: BGRS Rose Show
- June 17-21, 2020: ARS Spring National Convention, Colorado Springs, CO