



A Publication of the Bowling Green Rose Society  
Bowling Green, Kentucky

# Rosebuds

Meeting: 2/9/2020  
WCEO at 2 pm  
Program: Waking Up  
Your Roses  
Refreshments:  
Ricky  
Lockhart

February 2020

E-mail: [bgrs@twc.com](mailto:bgrs@twc.com)

## Ten Principals of Rose Pruning *by Bob Martin Master Rosarian and ARS President*

1. Plan your pruning from the ground up - Most rose growers start pruning from the top. The purpose of pruning is to select the strong, healthy canes that will support the new year's growth. Get down on your knees or sit down in front of the bush and look at the bud union and the canes that come from it. Think about new growth.
2. Identify the newest canes - They are the ones that are the greenest. Then identify any older canes. If your bush is young...2-3 years old, you may not have many old canes. The old canes are craggy and gray; the old ones usually have weak spindly growth and are in the way of brand new canes that are in the bud union's dormant eyes. Use lopper or a pruning saw to cut the old canes flush with the bud union.
3. If it's in the way, cut it away - new growth needs room and the ideal plant grows out from the center. Cut off any canes that cross over the center with loppers or pruning saw, flush with the bud union or flush with the cane. Also, if any canes are seriously crowding each other, you can wedge them apart with a piece of stem cut from the plant.
4. The height is simple - Mentally divide the cane into three equal parts and remove the top by 1/3.
5. This bud's for you - Bud eyes are found at the intersection of the cane and a leaflet of five. Sometimes they are obvious, other times less so. There should be several and the generally preferred ones face out. Where the canes come out at a 45 degree angle, a cut to the outside facing eye can result in a horizontally spreading bush with canes that fall of their own weight. This is particularly true of bushes that tend to naturally grow horizontally. A cut to an inner facing eye in such cases will usually produce a cane that goes straight up, the best way for rose to grow. If there are no properly placed bud eyes, find one and work with what you have.
6. When in doubt, cut it out! - Many rose growers are squeamish about pruning for fear they will harm a plant. Do not fear - a rose bush is one tough cookie.
7. If it isn't big enough to seal, it doesn't belong there - A stem growing from another cane will never be larger than its source. Pencil thick stems produce matchstick thick stems that produce pin thick stems. Many rose growers seal cuts with a drop of Elmer's or any white exterior grade glue. It is fast and easy and will protect the cane from Cane Borers.
8. Leave no leaves - Strip all the remaining leaves. They are last year's history. You want new leaves that can get a good start without catching infections or facing attack from the disease and bugs that are hanging around the old leaves.
9. Brush off the scaly, woody stuff on the bud union with a stiff brush - Rose lore says this will stimulate and provide room for basal breaks.
10. Clean up the area - Gather up all the canes, stems and leaves. Bag it up and throw it away. Get rid of the weeds from around the bush and dead leaves and dried up petals lying around. All of last year's fungus and insect problems are laying around in this stuff waiting for the new blooms. Don't compost this stuff. Rose canes don't decompose well and the spores, eggs and other things will survive composting efforts. Finally, lay down some new mulch to make things look real neat.

*Editor's Note: This article originally appeared in the February 2019 issue of "Thorny Issues," newsletter of the Acadiana Rose Society, Lafayette LA., B. J. Abshire, editor.*



## From the President *by Ricky Lockhart*

Hello fellow rose growers,

It's a new year and I hope everyone is well. This is a very strange winter to say the least. On Thursday January 16, we set a record high temperature. My roses are budding out like it's spring, which is not good.

If the weather turns off really cold, we may have lots of damage to our plants. Make sure they are still covered really good as winter is not over yet.

The Executive Committee met on Monday January 13th to decide on how we will do things this year. We have several items to bring up at our February Meeting. Everyone be thinking about whether you would like to continue having refreshments at our meetings or discontinue this. My wife and I will provide the refreshments for February then we will see what everyone wants to do regarding them. Bob will have the program which will be on uncovering our roses.

Please make plans to attend on Sunday, February 9, at 2pm at the Extension Office. If you know of others who grow roses or who might be interested in starting to grow them, please invite them to the meeting. Let's try to grow our society!

Ricky



"Presently, the roses are quiet and most obedient. Truth be told, they almost look angelic, sleeping peacefully in their little snow blankets. How ever did I become so embittered and frustrated with them? Why, the flood was but a nuisance and as for the drought? It was little bother, if any at all. Most fortunate, indeed, is the year-round rose grower! In truth, I miss my roses and now find myself ready to make nice. Yes, it appears the winter respite has served a great purpose. But must it last so long? How now can I hasten the emergence of spring? I vow never to feel rage for my roses again! But, just in case, anyone who contemplates clipping this column and sending it to me this August is no friend of mine!"

*From an article written by Jim Harding in February 2011 NRS Rose Leaves.*

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

Things I am doing to my roses in February:

This year has been unusually cold with so many days where the temperature never gets above freezing. Extra care and caution must be given to our rose bushes when temperatures stay below freezing for several days. I have my canes cut back to about 5 feet and all of the leaves are removed from the bushes, and winter mulch is in place, up and around the bushes.

1. I will spray with lime sulfur several times in the next few weeks in effort to kill any leftover black-spot.
2. I will remove any bushes I do not want to keep and find them a home with a future rose grower and help that person take up the hobby of growing roses as I have enjoyed for many years.
3. Now is a good time to get my pruning shears out and sterilize them and sharpen for next season's roses.
4. I will make a list of new roses I would like to add to my rose bed and order them or make arrangements to get them locally.
5. I will check my rose bed mulch often and see if I need to add additional mulch.
6. I will encourage others to take up this great hobby and enjoy all the benefits of rose growing .



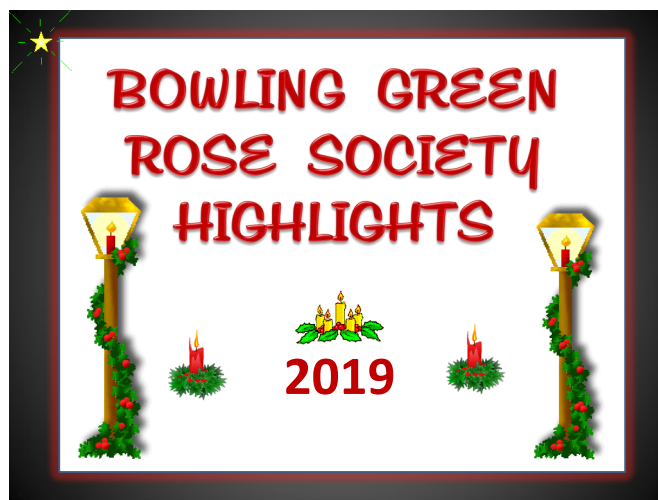
## BGRS Christmas Luncheon—December 6, 2019



Our Christmas luncheon was held at the Warren County Extension Office on December 6. Thirteen members and spouses enjoyed a delicious potluck meal.

President Ricky Lockhart presented Dan Wernigk with the ARS Bronze Honor Medal for his contributions and service to our society. (photo below)

The program “BGRS 2019 Highlights” was presented by Mary Ann Hext.



### REMINDER

Please plan to pay your 2020 BGRS dues at the February meeting (\$15) or send to our treasurer, Dan Wernigk by February 29 in order to be included on the 2020 membership list which will be distributed by email and at the March meeting.

## Fertilizer and Garden Products *by Jeff Garrett, President, Tri-State Rose Society of Chattanooga*

*Editor's Note: BGRS will not be taking orders this year for products from Beaty; but you may purchase products through the Nashville Rose Society by pre-ordering for delivery at their vendor night on April 2.*

What you order depends on you and what you are trying to achieve in your garden. Following is a list of some of the more popular products and their application rates.

**Mills Magic Rose Mix:** This 100% natural product is a combination of alfalfa, fish, and steamed bone meal, activated sludge, and an organic compost activator. NPK analysis is 6-5-1. Generally used 2-3 times per growing season. Work 2-3 cups into the soil around the drip line of the plant and water well. Use 1 cup per plant for miniatures. A 20# bag will feed 25-30 roses once and a 40# bag will feed 50-60 roses once.

**10-10-10 with Mg for Roses:** This product is a less expensive alternative to using the Mills Magic Mix. It is all organic and can be applied in the same dosage and manner as you would the Mills Magic Mix.

**Mills EasyFeed:** This product is a combination of Epsom salt, sequestrine chelated iron, soluble seaweed extract, fish solubles, urea and other soluble fertilizers. Mills EasyFeed comes in a dry formulation and a liquid concentrate. The dry formulation needs to be mixed with warm water to get it to dissolve as much as possible. The NPK analysis for the dry formulation is 20-10-6. The liquid concentrate is simply mixed with water and applied. The NPK analysis for it is 14-6-4. Whichever you choose can be applied as often as you desire from weekly to monthly during the growing season. Dilute one tablespoon per gallon of water for each rose bush. A gallon of liquid EasyFeed will make about 256 gallons of fertilizer. A 10# tub of the dry EasyFeed will make about 320 gallons of fertilizer.

**BloomKote:** This product is a controlled-release fertilizer especially formulated for roses and other blooming plants. It provides a multi-layer polymeric coating of basic plant nutrients with the added benefits of balanced trace elements and iron. The NPK is 16-18-14 and offers rose growers optimal nutrient availability throughout the growing season, avoiding deficiencies or hazardous excesses. It can be used at planting time to ensure an even supply of nutrients as the root systems develop. For established roses, spread a 1/2 cup of BloomKote around the base of the plant. Use about half as much for miniatures. One application between the first and middle of April is all that is required for the entire season. A 20# bag will fertilize about 80 roses.

**Rose Starter Fertilizer with Avail:** For years, soil scientists have known that only a very small percentage of soil phosphorus is available for plant uptake. Avail solves this problem. Phosphorus treated with Avail allows for up to 80% of the applied phosphorus to be available for plant uptake. Phosphorus is an essential plant nutrient, responsible for the storage of energy, encourages root growth, stalk strength and promotes resistance to root rot diseases. The NPK is 10-40-6. This is a great product to us when planting new roses. You can incorporate 1/2 to 1 cup into your planting mix.

**Beaty's Fish and Seaweed 2-1-1:** This liquid product is fish emulsion combined with kelp. It is designed to be used as either a foliar supplement or as a liquid fertilizer. If you are using as a foliar supplement, apply as a fine mist in the early morning or late afternoon. This is a great product to use in early spring to wake up your soil from a winters nap. You can also use it to water in any newly planted roses. It can be applied as often as every other week. The NPK is 2-1-1. Mix 1 to 2 tablespoons per gallon of water.

**Perdue Microsoft 60 3-2-3:** This all organic product is granulated pasteurized chicken litter that is used to build organic matter into your soil. You can apply 2-3 cups per standard bush in the spring and follow that up monthly at about half that rate. The NPK is 4-2-3. Some folks use Mills Mix or 10-10-10 with Mg for Roses in the spring and apply this product at the same rate around the first of July.

**Beaty EC Soil Conditioner:** This soil amendment is expanded shale. It is a good alternative to perlite, as it will help improve drainage and aeration in your soil. It will not compress, degrade or decompose over time. An added benefit is, unlike perlite, it retains a high percentage of its weight in absorbed water giving it the ability to release water to the root system at a later time. It will also retain nutrients. Great product!

**Golden Medallion 12-6-6 PNF:** This chemical fertilizer has been around for a long time. It has a lot of nitrogen and one application in mid-April will last the entire season. Use about 1 cup per bush.

*Editor's Note: This article, written by Jeff Garrett, appeared in the Winter 2020 issue of Basal Breaks, the newsletter of the Tri-State Rose Society of Chattanooga. Jeff is president of that society and also the newsletter editor along with his wife, Cindy. He also coordinates the reports for Roses in Review for the Tenarky District. There are many rose products available on the market. It is a good idea to talk with other rosarians in our area to learn what works for them and to use products which will help you achieve your goals for your garden.*

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## Bowling Green Rose Society

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We're on the Web!!

[www.bowlinggreenrosesociety.org](http://www.bowlinggreenrosesociety.org)



## 'Valentine's Day'

a climbing miniflora  
Hybridized by Tom Carruth



## HAPPY BIRTHDAY!!

Kathy Dodson—January 26  
Carl Mistlebauer—February 11  
Linda Ford—February 27



### 2020 IMPORTANT DATES

- May 30: BGRS Rose Show
- June 17-21: ARS National, Colorado Springs, CO



## ARS Trial Membership

A 4-month trial membership is available for \$10. You'll receive:

- ▶ Two issues of the American Rose, \$20 value.
- ▶ Free or reduced garden admissions, a \$25 value after just three issues.
- ▶ Discounts of up to 30% at merchant partners.
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You may [complete the online form](#)  
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or visit [www.rose.org](http://www.rose.org)

### 2020 BGRS EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

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