



The Rosarian Reminder

Tulsa Rose Society
Tulsa, Oklahoma

March 2014

Inside this issue:

What to Do in March	2
Who we are	2
President's message continued	3
Board Mtg. Minutes	3
March Rose Care in Tulsa	4
March Rose Care in Tulsa cont'd	5
What happens when we prune	6
Companion Plants	7
Best Rose Show Ad	8

Special points of interest:

- ◆ Refreshments:
Snacks -
- ◆ Ella Jo Yocham & Kaye Maclasky
- ◆ Drinks - Brenda Johnson

February Meeting, Sunday, March 9, 2 PM @ TGC

Note: We have traded meeting locations with the Orchid Society. That means we meet in the Tulsa Garden Center Ballroom (the basement). This makes it easier for the Orchid society to bring in plants and gives our group a more cozy meeting area and we will not interrupt them getting our supplies from the basement.

Is it really spring? What do I do now?

Following a long and cold winter we are all ready to get out into our gardens and get them ready for a new growing season. At our meeting on March 9th, we will be giving you some tips on pruning your roses so you will enjoy the spring bloom. Pruning properly will also

help reduce the threat of disease which is much better to prevent than treat.

We will also address other topics including:

- Feeding your roses
- Mulching
- Weed control
- Watering
- Moving/removing
- Adding companion plants
- Adding new roses

Our Consulting Rosarians will be available to answer any questions you have.

President's Letter—March 2014

Greetings, fellow rosarians --

March is probably the most critical month of the year for us as the steps we take now have a major influence on our plants for the remainder

of the year. We will discuss those things as a "to do " list at our March meeting. I am seeing extensive dead and dying black canes among my hybrid teas now, despite carefully protecting them this fall and

assuring they were kept well watered through the winter. I don't have a good explanation for this. My shrub roses and OGR's have virtually no damage as do my minis and miniflora's
(cont'd Page 3)

What to Do In March . . .

1. Water! Water! Water! **Water!** We have had an extremely dry month/year in addition to the cold and wind. Fortunately we have an occasional day when the temperatures are moderate and we can water our garden and yard. Dry turf and plants will suffer much more from the zero temperatures than if they are moist.
2. DO NOT remove your winter protection yet. Following the weather forecast will help you determine when, maybe. They are correct part of the time. You can watch for other plants and see their awakening. One sign that is right as often as the weatherman is the forsythia plants. When they start blooming it should be safe to remove your winter protection and start pruning. Be careful when removing your winter protection. You may have new basilis growing under the protection material. Remove the protection by hand if possible. Just take a little off at a time. If you encounter new growth, expose a couple inches and wait a couple days before exposing another couple inches. Slowly exposing the new growth will allow it to adjust to the sunlight and strengthen itself to the wind.
3. Remove dead rose leaves and canes from your garden area. These may be harboring some form of insects or disease so it may be best to dispose of them rather than add them to the compost pile which would further spread your problem.
4. If you have had disease or insect problems in your garden you may want to spray with a dormant oil spray. They are available at most garden supply centers. Read the directions carefully, even before purchasing. Most can not be applied after temperatures reach a certain high and must be above a minimum temperature. They work by sealing the surface of the canes so that insects and disease will die rather than emerge from dormancy.
5. Now is a good time to apply organic fertilizers to

Who We Are

The Rosarian Reminder is published monthly by the Tulsa Rose Society. Submit information and articles to John Carter, Editor at 1825 W. Lincoln St, Broken Arrow, OK 74012-8509 or via email at editor@tulsarosesociety.org or call 918-355-8020. Newsletters are mailed to Tulsa Rose Society members. Memberships are \$20 for individuals or families. Membership benefits include the newsletter, group purchases of roses and rose care products and support from an active organization.

Your Club Officers for 2014 are:

Don Johnson - President
 Ed Neumeier - First Vice President - Programs
 Carol Puckett - Second Vice President - Membership
 Norma Whitehead - Secretary
 Judith Carter - Treasurer
 Judith Carter - Immediate Past President

Consulting Rosarians:

Don & Brenda Johnson (Sapulpa) 918-227-1954
 John Carter (North Broken Arrow) 918-355-8020
 Norma Whitehead (North Broken Arrow) - 918-286-8244
 Butch Neumeier (Claremore) 918-342-2885

Meetings are normally held at the Tulsa Garden Center at 2 PM on the second Sunday of each month. Monthly business meeting is the first Wednesday of every month at the Tulsa Garden Center at 10:00 AM. Everyone is welcome. Visit our website at www.tulsarosesociety.org. Like us on Facebook also.

- your garden. If you have a lot of mulch you need to pull it back from the root zone and apply according to directions. Recover with the mulch. The fertilizer will slowly break down as the soil warms up and be available to the plant when it needs it to start growing.
6. Keep in mind that there is a wealth of information available on the American Rose Society website. www.ars.org You will also find several years of past issues of this newsletter on the Tulsa Rose Society website. www.tulsarosesociety.org
 7. Attend our March 9th meeting to learn more!
 8. Like our page on Facebook and receive notices of our activities.

(Cont'd from page 1) and these were not protected. I guess this makes a significant statement regarding hardiness of the rose classes

In spite of this, a number of HT varieties have only minor damage and I plan to make a list of those varieties for my future plantings so as to avoid those that require excessive attention. As my arthritic problems seem to progress exponentially, I am looking for ways to make things easier to care for and I know many of us are experiencing similar problems.

It is okay to remove severely blackened canes now, but avoid definitive pruning until at least the third week of March and even then see what the weather forecast is showing for the next week and if hard freezes are anticipated hold off a while longer. Be sure to gather up supplies you will need later this month-fertilizers, stakes, pesticides, etc. and have them ready to use and clean up your tools and have them ready. When Spring actually starts things happen VERY QUICKLY in the garden.

If you have questions or are uncertain about anything rose related don't hesitate to call one of us consulting rosarians.

Don

TULSA ROSE SOCIETY BOARD MEETING 02-05 2014

President Don Johnson called the meeting to order at 10:15 in the Tulsa Garden Center Volunteer meeting room. Others attending were Brenda Johnson, John & Judy Carter, Butch Neumeier, Carol Puckett, Gordon Beck and Dennis Voss. Absent were Bob Peterson and Beverly Forester.

Judy gave the Treasurer's Report and noted a checking balance of \$5,772.94. She has also sent paid dues to South Central District. She reminded us we should get the Membership Roster Book finished by the end of the month.

It was noted that the program for Sunday, February 9th will be given by Barry Fugatt on "Companion Plants for Rose Beds". Brenda Johnson moved that

we give a gift subscription of the American Rose Magazine to Mr. Fugatt. The motion was approved.

Gordon Beck made a motion to provide \$150.00 for the ongoing Rose Arrangement Program. The motion was seconded and approved.

There was discussion about planning an out of town trip in the Spring for the membership. No decision was made for where or exact date at this time.

John Carter reported that he was in the process of making new name tags for the membership.

A request was made for volunteers to work at the "Info-Fair" Saturday, February 8th. The Johnsons, the Carters and Butch Neumeier will be taking two hour turns, with setup on Friday afternoon.

Judy Carter reported that the ARS Insurance is due and payable and that the price has gone up to \$5/member. There was some discussion as to how to handle this. Also we will check to see if Broken Arrow has any coverage for the May Show.

Judy Carter will have a preliminary budget at the next meeting for the Board to review.

Meeting was adjourned at 11:00 AM.

Norma Whitehead, Secretary



Don & Butch at the Tulsa Garden Center Information Fair held February 8th.

MARCH ROSE CARE IN TULSA AREA

Words to consider "Those whose roses did poorly last season need to remember failure is not permanent and for those whose roses did well –success is not permanent either." Pop Warner

SOIL

With the above quote from one of the all time greatest rosarians this is an optimal time to obtain a soil test from your beds. This can be obtained thru the county extension service for a nominal fee and a commercial service in Claremore called "RED EARTH" offers a cheap basic test. Making adjustments at this time will payoff with big rewards later this spring. You will typically see low nitrogen levels as a result of the heavy feeding roses from last year indicative of what you will need later as to fertilizer type to use. The main issue at this time is pH as it take months to correct if off. Desirable range is 6 to 7 with ideal in the low 6 ranges. To correct ph for values over 7 use soil sulfur scratched in around the drip-line at a rate of 2-4 lbs per 100 square feet. For acid ph with values less than 6 do the same using lime. The ph then needs to be checked again in about 3 months and if still abnormal repeat the above procedures every 3-4 months until corrected. This is a very slow process and must be approached with caution in order to not overcorrect.

If your soil has become compacted this is also a good time to loosen it up carefully staying clear of root structure using a tiller or just spading or raking. For heavy clay soils there is a technique for adding gypsum which is very useful-Ask CR if interested in this.

There are many opinions about what is essential, what is useful and what is not in growing roses successfully but there are 5 principles that all successful rosarians unanimously agree on as listed next.

Roses like rich soil with lots of organic matter

Rose need plenty of water but good drainage

Roses need adequate sunlight (minimum of 6-8 hrs of full sun –preferably morning sun

Roses need protection against fungal diseases (this means regular spraying- It's like telling your wife you love her – you must continue to do it regularly.)

We have to decide how much of the rose we are willing to let the insects have.

Using these ideas as guides we can improve our success growing good roses.

PLANTING NEW ROSES

Bare Root

When your roses arrive bare root you need to immediately hydrate them by soaking the roots in water (can immerse the canes as well without harm). It is also useful to give them a quick dip in a bucket of water with several tablespoons of Clorox to kill any lingering fungus or insects. If your beds are not fully ready for planting the roses can be potted up and kept in a protected area if weather is still freezing-e.g. garage.

A handout gives details of the bare root planting procedure.

It is critical in the planting that the initial watering be very thorough in order to eliminate any air pockets in the soil which can kill the roots.

Be sure to label the rose and it should be staked and tied in some way to prevent damage to newly developing roots.

Container roses

When purchased roses arrive be certain to keep watered until planting time. Have your planting hole prepared in advance allowing space for growth of new roots into surrounding loose well amended soil-a 2 foot diameter x 2 foot deep hole is ideal. A handful of super phosphate sprinkled around the perimeter of the prepared hole is recommended. Adjust the container to where the bud union is about 1 and one half to 2 inches above the surrounding soil level. Remove the container-cut out the bottom and slit one side from the bottom of the container upward to about 1 inch, then position in the hole and surround the container with soil. Next cut the remaining 2 inches near the top and slip the container up and off the plant. This technique prevents disruption of the root system.

FERTILIZING

This month is a good time to start adding organic fertilizers to the roses such as fish meal, blood meal, alfalfa meal and proprietary mixes such as Mills Magic. Depending on how much you want to spend-(alfalfa the least expensive and Mills the most expensive) add from 1/2 to 2 cups around the drip line of the rose and scratch in into the soil. This type of fertilizer provides media for the development of soil organisms that enable inorganic fertilizers to be taken up by the rose and is essential for rosarians who want prize winning roses. It is slow to work but over time is most effective. An excellent inexpensive alternative to this is a good supply of horse manure which may actually be more effective.

PRUNING

Usually late march is the optimal time for pruning in our area-last 2 weeks but consider weather forecast and if excessive freezing is expected consider delaying a bit.

BASAL BREAKS

These are those early white to reddish sprouts originating from the bud union or the base of on-root roses and are the lifeblood of our roses. These will be the new canes for the year and will be the most productive in number and size of new blooms and will replace older canes that gradually die from injury and natural decay. It is very important to avoid injuring these and to protect them as they develop. They are very tender

when young and will snap off easily. Do not confuse them with suckers.

Spraying

To start off the year it is important to start protecting the roses from fungi by spraying. As soon as leaves begin to emerge and this will start anytime in March.

Other things you might need to know

The fertilizer order has been delivered to John's home. It is available for you to pick up or you can pick it up at the March 9th meeting.

The Tulsa Rose Garden has been pruned. It is NOT time to prune yours. They are trying to eliminate the mite causing the rosette disease. The roses were pruned way back, the mulch will be removed and replaced and the roses will be sprayed with a dormant oil/neem oil type of spray in an effort to control the mite. The rose garden has become an experimental garden in the treatment of rosette. We might all learn from this program.

The show schedule for the May 17th Rose Show in being worked on and should be available in printed form at our April meeting and online as soon as the editing is complete. The Rose Show will be held at Nienhuis Park community center in Broken Arrow this year. See the ad on page 8.

Photo to the right is Barry Fugatt speaking to the Tulsa Rose Society at our February meeting. We had 28 members and guests in attendance.



What Happens When We Prune?

By: Don Julien, roseguy@bmi.net, Consulting Rosarian , Seattle, WA

Several events happen within a bush when we prune. The first is wound healing. The next is a change in the flow of auxins affecting apical dominance. The third is a change in the relative size between root system and bush.

Wound Healing

When we prune a rosebush, we are "wounding" it. When we cut off a cane, we expose plant cells that were not designed to be exposed. Woody plants have a two step process for repairing damage from such wounds, protecting the plant from losing fluids and from invasion by pests. The first step is to harden the exposed cells. The second step is to regrow tissue from the cambium layer surrounding the wound. This new tissue is called a callus. This process is most visible on tree scars; the wound is a hard smooth area surrounded by a corky collar that over time grows to close over the wound.

In roses, we observe the hardening in a pruning wound, but we usually only observe callusing on the bottom of cuttings, the chunky white mass that forms over a period of two to three weeks. This first step of hardening begins within 24 hours. A number of changes occur inside the cells within a boundary zone at the wound. Starch granules within the exposed cells degenerate. Cells adjacent to the wound increase production of a number of endoplasmic reticulum, ribosomes, polysomes, cytoplasm and dictyosomes. What these are is not important, other than that they play a role in developing polysaccharides. The polysaccharides are deposited on the boundary cell walls, and precede the formation of lignin, a tough cellulose substance that hardens the cell walls. Meanwhile, abscissic acid stimulates an as yet unknown process that produces enzymes used in producing suberin, which also attaches to the cell walls, and has some action in controlling invading fungi.

Ligno-suberized cells begin to form within 3 to 7 days, although the healing process can take several weeks. Temperature and humidity influence the rate of healing. Wound healing proceeds rapidly at 50°F and a relative humidity of 80 to 100%. Lower humidity requires higher temperatures. Relative humidity below 50% will inhibit healing.

Changing Apical Dominance

Auxins flowing from the apical bud(s) higher on the bush inhibit bud break from dormant buds farther down the cane. Pruning cuts off the apical buds, interrupting the flow of auxins. The bud directly below the pruning cut begins to produce auxins, taking over the position as apical bud, controlling the buds below and retrieving cytokinins from the roots. Pruning is our artificial means of controlling bud break on our bushes. Early growth that promises lackluster performance can be pruned away to dormant eyes that act as if the bush just woke up. Pruning can also cut away early growth damaged by late frosts. In pruning, we choose which buds will be apical; by selecting buds on one side or another, or higher or lower on the cane, we can shape the bush to our wishes.

Changing Apical Dominance (continued)

Traditionally, rosarians in the Seattle area prune in mid-February, although those in the cooler foothills wait until early March, cutting away any early growth. Pruning to dormant buds in mid-February times bud break to early March when day-length, temperature and light intensity will all be suitable for encouraging sturdy new growth, resulting in blooms in early June. Some exhibitors use pruning to time the blooming to coincide with rose shows. They will prune their bushes at two week intervals through February and mid-March to time the blooms through a six-week period, early June through mid July.

Shrubs and Old Garden Roses merit a special mention. Generally, we recommend that once-blooming OGR's be pruned lightly after blooming in summer. Both shrubs and OGR's are pruned in such a way as to encourage twiggy growth on lax canes. Apical dominance is not as strong in this lax form as it is in the upright form of hybrid teas, floribundas and climbers. In spring, early bud break may produce some unproductive growth, but it is rapidly followed with a profuse succession of productive bud break, resulting in heavy bloom hiding any blind growth. Since these shrubs are already at their preferred size, shoot growth is short and quick to bloom. Although most OGR's are once-blooming, the succession of bud breaks may result in bloom periods of up to six weeks. This is also dependent on weather; a warm early spring may encourage faster bud succession, earlier bloom and shorter bloom period.

Sizing

Each rosebush has a preferred size, based on variety and root system. A general guideline is that the plant above ground will match the root system below. Assuming a plant is established, light pruning will result in lots of smallish flowers on short stems, because the bush is already maxed out to the size of the root system. A hard pruning produces big canes and few, but larger flowers because the bush is trying to recover to its preferred size. Some rosarians exert some control over the size of a rosebush, not by just pruning the canes, but by root pruning as well. This is done by cutting a circle around the bush with a shovel, cutting off lateral roots. Then cane pruning brings the bush size down to match the new root size.

The balance of auxins and cytokinins influences the development of either roots or shoots. High auxin and low cytokinin levels encourage root formation, while low auxin and high cytokinin levels promote shoots. Hard cane pruning reduces auxin production, stimulating new shoots. Root pruning reduces the number of sites producing cytokinins, stimulating root growth (and controlling shoot growth). The combination of the two pruning's retains a balance, encouraging both roots and shoots, but at a reduced level.

Companion Plantings

We had a good turnout at our February meeting for an excellent program on companion planting. If you missed the program or you did not get to take notes the following is a partial list of the plants discussed. You can visit the Linnaeus garden to see examples of these plants. They will generally be found at the garden centers and are varieties that do grow in the Tulsa area.

- Maiden Grass
- Fountain Grass
- Mexican Feather Grass
- Youpon Holly
- Boxwood
- Nandina
- Virginia Sweetspire
- Barberry
- Spiraea
- Crape Myrtle
- Loropetalum
- Buckthorn
- Rose of Sharon
- Chokeberry
- Viburnum

Tulsa Rose Society

%John T Carter, Editor
1825 W Lincoln St
Broken Arrow, OK 74012-8509

TRS

TULSA ROSE SOCIETY
ESTABLISHED 1945



Enter The Best Tulsa Rose Show

Enter the ALL NEW Tulsa Rose Show, May 16-17 this year in historic Broken Arrow, OK - Bringing Back The Roses, including **CASH AWARDS**.

All the usual categories and judging system are the same, but the location and events around the show are new.

Broken Arrow's **Bring Back The Roses** is planning an all day family festival with a rose photography and rose illustration competition, games for kids, vendors with plant related information. In the evening a gala honoring the winners with wine and hors d'oeuvres will be held on historic Main Street in an elegant top floor ballroom overlooking the roses on Main.

KEEP BROKEN ARROW
Beautiful
BRINGING BACK THE CITY OF ROSES

president@tulsarosesociety.org