

Regarding Roses

Tallahassee Area Rose Society

Affiliated with The American Rose Society



President's Message By Marion Nimis

February 2015

Now that all of our New Year's resolutions have been broken, we can focus again on the sacred rite of rose pruning which we're due to start on Valentine's Day (February 14). Pruning my roses terrifies me more than anything else I do in the garden. I confess to doing bad things to roses. It doesn't matter how many books, videos and demos I study or how many pruners I've sharpened, I'm still terrible at pruning. My best experience was hacking away with a large pair of hedge shears after a stiff drink. I didn't have to worry about the correct angle of the slope of the cut, nor the correct distance from the correct bud eye, nor the correct pruning style for the rose at hand. Following my attack, the rose—a pink knockout—looked mangled and depressed. But I didn't. I'm thinking

of writing a book, "How Not to Prune a Rose".

On Saturday, February 14, at 9:00 am, John Sullivan and Co. will hold their Old Garden Rose Sale at Goodwood. This sale continues on Saturday mornings from 9:00 am to noon until all the roses are sold. They are a real bargain at \$7.00 each and rose enthusiasts come from all over to buy Goodwood roses. Our rose volunteers have dwindled to a very few. More Saturday morning helpers are needed. It's thanks to John, Mary Maud and Ann that there are still roses to buy at Goodwood.

This is a good time of year to get your soil tested so you'll know what to add to have lovely blooms later. You can pick up soil test kits at the Leon County Extension Office anytime. (We'll have them available at this meeting.) As UF/IFAS says, soil test is the #1 best man-

agement practice. Don't guess, soil test! I know you are dying to, but be careful not to fertilize too soon. It's best to wait until next month when the soil has warmed up a bit.

Our next meeting is Sunday, February 15 at 3:00 pm in Jubilee Cottage at Goodwood. Our program will be on "Tips on Pruning Roses for the Spring Bloom Season".

I'm grateful to Pat Stanford for presiding over our January meeting. I look forward to seeing you all Sunday.

Marion Nimis

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ARS/CR School

The school is being planned for a Saturday in June at Goodwood. More details will be available soon.

Society Meeting

Date: Sunday, February 15, 2015

Time: 3:00 p.m.

Place: Jubilee Cottage, Goodwood Museum and Gardens, 1600 Miccosukee Rd., Tallahassee, Florida.

Program: The program will be "Tips on Pruning Roses for the Spring Bloom Season". Pruning can be intimidating to rose growers. Learn what ARS Consulting Rosarians recommend.

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Thought You'd Like To Know – Doris Day

Doris Day is a 2015 New Rose Introduction and is a floribunda. Just like it's namesake this rose has 'Star Quality' for certain. It has clusters of golden yellow blooms that are gently ruffled. It has a strong fruity fragrance that can be enjoyed from a dis-

tance. The foliage is a deep green and is disease resistance. The bushes are medium height and upright with rounded growth and are a perfect backdrop for the blooms. The flower size is 4 to 6 inches and the petal count is 45 to 50. Parents are Julie Newmar and

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Doris Day
(Floribunda)

Special Notes

- Volunteer at Goodwood Saturday mornings 9:00 am till noon. Contact John Sullivan, joh4@aol.com for more information.
- Volunteer at the Peace Garden the first Wednesday March through October beginning at 9:00 am. Contact Mary Maud Sharpe, 850-878-9625, wjmm-sharpe@aol.com

Thought You'd Like to Know (continued)

Julia Child. The hybridizer is Christian Bédard. If you are looking for new varieties, *Doris Day*, may be a good one to try.

94th Thomasville Rose Show

Spring rose shows will be here before too long. Thomasville Rose Society will be holding their 94th show Friday and Saturday, April 24—25. You will receive more information later and we hope that many of our members will plan to go and to exhibit. Rick Thomas 1-800-234-9536, rthomas@rose.net is the contact person.

Jim and Daisy Mills, K and M Nurseries plan to be at the Thomasville show with rose bushes. They sell plants on fortuniana rootstock. If you would like to preorder contact them at 601-648-2908, info@kandmroses.com. Their website is www.kandmroses.com. They now have David Austin roses on fortuniana. They also do custom grafting.

Dues are Due

It is time again for annual dues to TARS. A membership form is enclosed if you have not yet paid your dues. If you have questions, contact information is on the form. We hope that you will join us for 2015 meeting and events.

Goodwood Roses

The major sale is scheduled for Saturday, February 14 at 9:00 am and the plants look good. Buy your sweetheart a rose bush! Extra help would be appreciated at the sale. Contact John Sullivan at 727-8636 or joh4@aol.com. Goodwood can use and would appreciate any volunteer help that rose society members can give during the week or on Saturday mornings with the propagation folks.

Pruning Demonstration

Bill Dority tells us that he will be pruning roses on Friday and Saturday, February 13 and 14 and again on Friday and Saturday, February 20 and 21 in the afternoons from 1:00—4:00 pm at his home garden, 3201 Brookforest Drive. He has graciously invited TARS members to come for instruction and/or practical experience. Yes, you can help with the pruning. The listed dates and times are for weather permitting. Contact him at 850-570-7046. For members who do not know Bill, he has been growing roses of all types for years, has been an ARS Consulting Rosarian and is always willing to share his knowledge about rose culture. He says that his garden is always open to visitors. It might be a good idea to give him a call first.

Goodies

Mary Maud Sharpe is coordinating the "Goodies" for refreshments after the meetings during our social time. If you would like to volunteer to help contact her at 850-878-9625 or wjmmsharpe@aol.com.

TALLAHASSEE AREA ROSE SOCIETY

MEETING—January 18, 2015

The January meeting of the Tallahassee Area Rose Society for 2015 was held at 3:00 pm at Goodwood Museum and Gardens at the Laundry Cottage. In the absence of President Marion Nimis, Pat Stanford, president emerita, presided and welcomed members. There were no minutes for the month of December because the only activity was the Christmas party.

Mary Maud Sharpe gave the treasurer's report. The fund totals \$2,281.82. Anticipated expenses included liability insurance to be purchased from the American Rose Society in the amount of \$420 and DSD fund of \$25. A memorial of \$25 has been sent to the district garden fund. The treasurer's report was accepted.

Pruning opportunities were announced for various locations. They include the Healing Garden on Feb 5 from 9:00—12:00 noon and Feb. 13 and 14 and 20 and 21 1:00—4:00 pm at Bill Dority's house.

The Goodwood Rose sale will be held Saturday, February 14. Price is \$7/bush. One and two year bushes will be available.

Annual dues are due in January.

Bill Dority announced he has roses to give away for community projects.

Pat Stanford asked members to submit suggestions for future meetings to board members.

Consulting rosarians' reports are due this month. The report form can be downloaded from the ARS website.

Mary Maud Sharpe agreed to arrange for a Consulting Rosarian school to be offered in Tallahassee in June. ARS needs some lead time to publicize the event. It is anticipated the students will come from the Dothan, Tallahassee, Thomasville and other societies. The class takes one half day to complete.

Soil test kits were available at the meeting.

Mary Maud Sharpe gave a program based on Peter Schneider's *Right Rose Right Place*.

A door prize was awarded. The meeting adjourned at 4:00 pm and members enjoyed refreshments and fellowship.

The next meeting will be held Sunday, February 15, at Goodwood at 3:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Jackson

Secretary

Work

"Happiness does not come from doing easy work

But from the afterglow of satisfaction

That comes after the achievement of a difficult task

That demanded our best."

Theodore Isaac Rubin

February Consulting Rosarian Report

By Mary Maud Sharpe

Now is the time that what you do in your garden will determine if your roses will do well this spring, summer and into the fall. Pruning is the major work that should be done beginning on Valentine's Day until the first of March. See the special article on pruning in this newsletter. Clean up is a very essential part of pruning. Beds should be cleaned of all old debris since some problems will winter over. In addition to taking care of your existing roses now is also a good time to plant new ones. Mail order nurseries are shipping and local nurseries have new plants. Look for roses on fortuniana rootstock, if you can find them. They seem to do better in our area. Prepare your soil before planting and be sure to water well frequently until plants become established in their new home. Be sure to replenish mulch after clean up and planting new roses. May your roses be their best this spring!

Pruning Roses

The job of pruning is best performed after the chance of frost has disappeared. To ignore the pruning process will allow the plant to enlarge in size but some new stems, being so thin and weak, will be unable to support flowers. The result is a bigger bush that spreads along the ground. Moreover, the previous year's foliage can be a source of fungal infections from spores that survived the winter. Hence, roses require an annual cut back to ensure attractive and productive plants year after year.

Of all gardening practices, pruning seems to create a sense of uneasiness because of a lack of appropriate logic and understanding. The art and technique of rose pruning is not a mystery. It is remembering to apply a few basic principles derived from practical experiences gathered over hundreds of years. Pruning know-how provides an annual opportunity for the gardener to correct, adjust and modify the growth patterns to increase flower production, and influence the plant's form.

Historically, emphasis has been misplaced in that not performing the right steps will result in failure. Failure to follow the directions carefully will only translate into an awkward overall bush shape. However the rose bush will still perform in the spring. While some measure of education can be learned from reading books and attending public pruning demonstrations, it is the practical aspects that will ultimately teach the finer points of rose pruning. Experimentation will offer guidance in which varieties can be pruned hard (canes to 2-3 feet or less) and which ones lightly (canes to 4 feet). This basic understanding of rose varieties and their characteristics will enhance the enjoyment of rose growing bringing a degree of satisfaction and pride. Approach rose pruning like an artist to result in creating the optimum bush shape. In warm climate zones, roses rarely experience the extended

freezing conditions of winter that occur in temperate or cold climates. Practice of regulating the shape can enhance the landscape ambiance of the rose garden ensuring a vigorous first bloom that makes the effort all worthwhile. Pruning does encourage new basal growth from the bud union – usually regarded as strong evidence of good health. Pruning does permit a time period where the plant processes are slowed down and then redirected to produce that first magnificent spring bloom.

- Always prune by cutting to good healthy tissue easily recognized by the green bark on the outside of the cane and white pith core revealed after the cut is made. If the central pith is not pure white, it is an indication of necrosis i.e. dead or dying tissue.
- Prune the center of the bush to open for maximum air circulation and light penetration. Creating the environment for good air circulation is crucial to avoid micro climatic conditions suitable for fungi growth.
- Plan to remove all growth on main canes that is not capable of sustaining a reasonable thickness of stem. The removal of stems no thicker than a pencil will ensure stronger straighter stems to support large blooms.
- Remove old canes that appear woody by sawing them off as close to the bud union as possible.
- After pruning has been completed, remove any remaining foliage from the canes and clean up around the bush discarding all foliage as trash. Last year's foliage may contain dormant spores or fungi.

By far the most important technique to master in pruning roses is the correct angle and direction of the primary cut. The final pruning cut should be made at approximately a 45 degree angle, about 0.5 cm (1/4 inch) above a leaf axile where there is a dormant bud eye. If the bush has foliage present, the cut location is easy to find. However, cuts are often made further down canes where there is no foliage to guide to the appropriate cut. Under these circumstances look for the dormant eye on such canes by locating where foliage was once connected. The eye is normally visible as a slight swelling above the surface of the cane. Making these primary cuts correctly is the real key to success in pruning. The cut should be made in such a way that the new growth eventually emerges from eyes that naturally point away from the center of the bush. This deliberate planning of new spring growth patterns gives the rose bush a pleasing overall circular shape that spreads from the center outwards. Such cuts should avoid the new growth from being directed inward and colliding with other stems. The logic behind making the cut slope down and away from the eye is that the excess natural sap that will rise from the inside of the cane to seal the cut naturally can pour down the opposing side of the cane and not interfere with the developing eye. Experience is your best teacher.

Upcoming Society Programs

February 15, 2015: "Tips on Pruning Roses for the Spring Bloom Season"

March 14, 2015: Society Meeting

April 19, 2015: Society Meeting

May 17, 2015: Society Picnic, Home of Marion Nimis
2105 Miller Landing Road

TARS Events

February 14, 2015: Goodwood Old Garden Rose Plant Sale: 9:00 a.m. till noon. Contact John Sullivan, 850-727-8636 or joh4@aol.com

ARS Events and News

Four month trial memberships are still being offered by ARS. You get free access to the monthly bulletins and two issues of the American Rose magazine plus much more. There is much interesting information in the ARS magazine such as news from ARS, articles on varied rose topics, beautiful photos, national, district and local events and much more.

Visit the ARS website www.rose.org there is valuable information for local society members. As a member you have access to the members only information in addition to information for all who visit the site.

Publications such as Horticulture, Arrangement and Consulting Rosarian Manuals are available for reference and download. The Rose Registration Listing is also available.

ARS e-mails members the publication of ARS & You which you will find helpful.

Information: www.tallahasseearearosesociety.org

The Tallahassee Area Rose Society meetings are at 3:00 pm on the third Sunday of the month except June and July at the Jubilee or Laundry Cottage, Goodwood Museum and Gardens.

Membership: Annual dues are \$10 individual, \$15 joint. Contact the treasurer, Mary Maud Sharpe, 850-878-9625, wjmmsharpe@aol.com

The Deep South District of the ARS issues a quarterly copy of the Bulletin. It is available though e-mail to all ARS members. A black-and-white copy is also available to members who do not have an e-mail address. Make check for \$10.00 to Deep South District and mail to Ed Easom, 18501 Turtle Dr., Lutz, FL 33549-4461

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Newsletter of the Tallahassee Area Rose Society

Disclaimer: While the information and recommendations in this newsletter are believed to be correct and accurate, neither the authors, editor nor the Tallahassee Area Rose Society can accept responsibility for errors or omissions that may be made. The Society makes no warranty expressed or implied with respect to the material herein. Articles, information, etc. for the newsletter will be greatly appreciated.

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