

Regarding Roses

Tallahassee Area Rose Society

Affiliated with The American Rose Society



President's Message: Jan Godfrey

February 2020

I hope everyone and their roses are doing well. Thanks to Seymour Rosen for arranging last month's program and inviting Austin Fife (the mite researcher) from UF-IFAS gave us a very informative presentation on Rose Rosette Disease (RRD). The ARS is very concerned about knowing where RRD is showing up in rose gardens across the country. Austin told us of his findings in this area. He has found the eriophyid mite, which spreads the virus, in Leon, Gadsden and Decatur counties. He has found that the populations of the mite are increasing in the areas in which they have been found. The mites are dispersed by the wind. The disease is endemic to many of the species roses such as the Cherokee Rose and if you have these growing in your garden or close by you should examine and moni-

tor them closely. RRD is a fatal disease for your roses. We have put a link on the Resources page of the web site to the published information on the IFAS web site. I strongly recommend that you read this document (a PDF download is also available). (<https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/pp317>)

We have continued to spray our roses during the winter months and our plants are looking much better than last year at this time. We have a few that are harder to keep healthy. They get the same treatment as the others but somehow remain a bit puny. I decided to use a baking soda spray to combat the Blackspot—the roses did not fare well after this spray. So, I have gone back to my previous regimen of Green Cure and Neem Oil. This seems to be doing the trick for now.

The Goodwood Rose Sale

is coming up soon. As usual, I have promised myself no more roses (very often a broken promise) and I hope we won't be tempted to add new varieties of Dowager and Victorian Old Garden Roses to our collection. However, if there's a Reve d'Or available, a place will be found in the garden for it.

This month's program will be "Ask the CRs". It will be a great opportunity to get your questions answered by our own Consulting Rosarians. Bring your questions about planting, pruning, fertilizing and spraying, along with any other topics that you are interested in learning about. I already have several topics on my list of questions. We are also hoping to hear from members about how they are preparing their gardens for the upcoming

(Continued on Page 2)

February Society Meeting

Date: Thursday, February 6, 2020

Time: 7:00 pm.

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

Program: Presented by TARS CR's with member participation "What You Need to Know and Do About Buying, Planting and Caring for Roses in 2020". Experienced growers will share tips and give you helpful hints..

Inside this issue:

| | |
|---|---|
| <i>President's Message</i> | 1 |
| <i>Thought You'd Like to Know—Society Meeting and Notes</i> | 1 |
| <i>Goodwood Roses, DSD Mid-Winter Hospitality, Deadline, Help, Minutes, Thank You, Bronze Medal and Dues.</i> | 2 |
| <i>CR Report,</i> | 3 |
| <i>Upcoming Programs, Future Events of DSD and General Information</i> | 4 |
| <i>TARS Officials</i> | 4 |
| <i>ARS Consulting, Master and Emeritus Rosarians</i> | 4 |

Special Notes

- Volunteer at Goodwood Saturday mornings 9:00 am—Noon and third Wednesday 9:00 am.
- Volunteer at the Peace Garden to assist the city in its care. New plants are to be planted.

Thought You'd Like To Know – Mary Maud

Mary Maud is a miniature hybridized by Diann Giles and registered in 1999. The blooms are medium pink with 17-25 petals. It has small clusters of blooms and a slight fragrance. The blooms once opened last on the bush well. The foliage is medium and the color is medium green, semi-glossy. The growth of the plant is upright. It grows well in a pot or in the

ground. TARS donated a clay potted plant for the DSD Mid-Winter meeting for a raffle item. We are not sure of its new home, but hope it will give the rosarian lots of pleasure. (Cheryl Gibbons also donated a basket containing jewelry and other items for the raffle.) I am proud of my rose. MMS



**Mary Maud
(Miniature)**

(President's Message continued from page 1)
to a meeting in a while, this is the one to attend to learn how to prepare your garden for Spring.

Hope to see you at Goodwood on February 6th.
"It is the time you have spent on your rose that makes her so important."

— Antoine de Saint-Exupéry

Jan

Goodwood Roses

The volunteers are busy getting ready for the annual sale planned for February 8 from 9:00 am until Noon. Come early for best selection. There is a flyer enclosed that you can share with others. Come join us! If you can volunteer to help with the sale contact any of the volunteers. For more information contact any of the regular volunteers:

Eva McElvy, 850-251-4810

evarenemc@gmail.com

Sam Miller, 850-459-3012

sammiller6113@outlook.com

Mary Maud Sharpe, 850-878-9625

wjmmsharpe@aol.com

Ann Stevens, 850-576-1800

stevensann@yahoo.com

John Sullivan, 850-727-8636

jdsiv014@gmail.com

The sale will continue on Saturday mornings until all plants find a new home.

Hospitality Committee—Martha Dooley

If you are willing to provide a goodie (sweet, savory, beverage) for 2020 meetings, please call me at 850-342-1711 or e-mail to mbdooley@embarqmail.com or text to 850-294-4016. Just let me know what item you plan to bring and I will coordinate with other member volunteers.

Deadline for March Newsletter

The deadline for submitting information for the March "Regarding Roses", the society newsletter, is February 20. Please send information to the editor Mary Maud Sharpe at wjmmsharpe@aol.com or mail to 7020 Apalachee Parkway, Tallahassee, FL 32311-4122. Contact by phone at 850-878-9625.

Asking for Your Help

Ginger Benjamin, a society member, has volunteered to be responsible for publicity and spreading the word to the community of news from the society and inviting others to join us. She will need the cooperation of the members to keep her informed of special events, our interesting monthly programs and rose tips from your garden that you are willing to share. Her contact information is 2658 Millbrook Dr., Tallahassee, FL 32301-8562, 850-264-4490, Ginger_Sells@yahoo.com. Let's all help Ginger spread the word about roses and TARS!

Tallahassee Rose Society Minutes January 2, 2020

The meeting was called to order by President Jan Godfrey at 7:10 p.m. There were no minutes for the delightful December holiday party that was held on Sunday, December 15, 2019, in the lovely home of Gerard and Marion Nimis. TARS Chef Bob Schelhorn provided delicious gumbo. Marion and Gerard served tasty punch and other nice beverages. Thanks were expressed to Bob, the Nimises, and to others who contributed wonderful foods for sharing.

Martha Dooley circulated a list requesting people to sign up to provide meeting refreshments. Janet Newburgh agreed to provide refreshments for the February meeting. More people are needed to sign up to help with the refreshments.

President Godfrey presented the Bronze medal to Ann Stevens—very well deserved—congratulations, Ann!

Austin Fife of the Gadsden County Extension Office in Quincy presented an interesting, very timely program on rose rosette disease. Austin is doing research with Gary Knox, Mathews Paret, and Xavier Martini on this viral disease and the eriophyid mite that transmits it.

Rose rosette disease is not a new disease, having been identified in the 1940s in Canada, but it began to get more attention around 1960. The disease mainly affects the multiflora rose, and there aren't many of these in Florida, but it also affects the Cherokee rose, and there are more of these here. The effects of the disease looks a lot like herbicide damage. Investigators can now look for the virus by molecular approaches, or look for the microscopic-sized mites. The most obvious visual symptoms are very red tissue, both old and new, and deformed buds. The virus can change the color of the flower and can cause mosaic leaves. The virus does not spread evenly through the plant. Infected plants generally die within one to three years.

The mite vector has only four legs and is microscopic in size. It is the only plant mite known to transmit viruses, and the mites seem to attack only roses. The mites can develop on most Rosa species but apparently not on other rosaceae.

Rose rosette disease has been identified in Decatur County, GA, and has been found in multifloras and in drift roses in other places, including in Georgia. The mites have been found in relatively low numbers in Tallahassee, but so far, no virus has been identified here. Nevertheless, since Florida is the fourth largest rose producer in the USA, diseases such as this one are of some concern.

Preventative measures include insecticides such as horticultural oil, abamectin, and Bifenthrin. Systemic insecticides are most effective because of the inaccessibility of the mites to most sprays. The best time for pesticide application is early spring, rotating different mode-of-action insecticides. Also, it might be useful to eliminate nearby wild roses, which can be vectors. The mites cannot crawl but can be carried by the wind, so a wind break might be helpful. Researchers are investigating the efficacy of effective integrated management practices.

cannot crawl but can be carried by the wind, so a wind break might be helpful. Researchers are investigating the efficacy of effective integrated management practices.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:52 pm, for a lovely selection of treats offered by Mary Maud Sharpe and Martha Dooley.

Respectfully submitted by

Janet Newburgh, TARS Secretary

February Consulting Rosarian Report by Montine Herring

What a fun time we had in Gainesville at our Mid-Winter Meeting. Driving home from Gainesville my thoughts turned to the tasks of getting my rose garden back in shape after the winter rest. Most of us in our area think of February as the pruning month. Proper pruning will give the rose bushes room to grow as soon as the weather warms the soil. As a general rule do not prune before mid or late February since early growth may be killed by late cold or freezing temperatures. Roses grow differently, but pruning should open up the center of the bush so that air can circulate. Carefully examine each bush and decide how you will shape it. All dead canes should be removed as flush as possible to the bud union. Do not leave stubs. Learn to recognize the difference between suckers (which are rootstock growths that come from below the bud union) and basal breaks that are newly formed canes. Be sure to remove suckers and be careful to protect newly formed canes. Hopefully each bush will have at least three good canes left after pruning. The good canes you plan to keep should be cut back until the entire pith color is white. In pruning the canes make the cut about 1/4 inch above an outside pointed bud.

After pruning all the bushes clean the beds of all debris, particularly of any diseased leaves and those awful winter weeds. Many rosarians spray with a dormant spray such as Lime Sulphur before canes begin to leaf out. As soon as the bushes have new growth, begin weekly spraying with your fungicide of choice and insecticide when needed. Newly planted or transplanted roses should be watered more frequently until their roots are well established. It is advisable to stake these bushes. Pieces of nylon hose make excellent ties. Organic materials such as milorganite, alfalfa meal, cottonseed meal and other compounds suggested from your soil test such as lime may be added to your roses. After working the soil, mulch with pine straw. Enjoy the excitement and anticipation of another rose blooming season. Visions of rose queens in your garden will make your work easier.

Pruning Roses Why, When and How

ARS has the Consulting Rosarian Manual available on their web site and it is free for download. You may visit

it for general rose information and the section on pruning is especially helpful. There is much more information available on pruning in books and on the internet.

Most plants and especially roses are improved for another year's growth by pruning. It is an age old art. These are the points of why we prune.

- To correct, adjust and modify the size and shape of rose plants
- To keep plants blooming all summer
- Remove dead branches
- Allow better air circulation
- Rejuvenates your rose bush

In our area it is generally recommended that rose be pruned mid-February (Valentine's Day) to early March. Generally then new growth will not be killed by very cold weather. This timing will usually bring blooms in mid to late April. If you have a frosty morning it is best to wash off the frost before the sun melts it to save the new growth.

The tools you will need are hand clippers, loppers and saws. Clippers are the most important and the tool most used. Invest in a good pair that fits your hand. Clippers come in several sizes. Loppers are used to cut larger canes and some have extension handles that give you more leverage. Pruning saws come in different sizes and some fold. They are useful for large canes. There are even wire saws for hard to reach canes that need to be removed. Be sure to keep all your clippers, loppers and saws clean and sharpened.

Wear a good strong pair of thick leather gloves that are puncture proof. Rose thorns can be wicked.

When beginning pruning, cut away dead wood first. Healthy wood is a white core after the cut is made. This will give you the chance to look at the canes that are left and decide which ones to keep. Shape your plant. The center of the plant should be open. Most instructions tell you to find a dormant eye and cut at an angle. Be sure to remove any twiggy growth and suckers. Any wood left should generally be the size of a pencil. The size of the plant should be reduced. Some plants require more pruning than others. Do not prune drastically for the first couple of years of growth. Experience is a great teacher.

Clean your beds of all debris and especially old leaves. All materials should be bagged and discarded as trash. It is a good idea to use a dormant spray such as lime sulfur as soon as you have pruned. Spray both the plant and the beds.

Specific types of roses will require slightly different approaches to pruning. Generally hybrid teas will require more drastic pruning and other varieties such as floribundas, miniatures/minifloras, old garden roses, shrubs and climbers are best shaped.

Pruning gives you new spring growth and wonderful spring blooms.

See You at the February Meeting

Upcoming Society Programs and Events

February 6 — “What you should know and What You should do for 2020 Spring Bloom.” TARS / CR’s

March 5 — “Propagation” - Goodwod Volunteer. Ann Stevens

April 2 — ”New Rules and Guidelines for ARS Rose Shows.

May 7—Annual Picnic. Details TBA later.

DSD Events

April 24-25 — Thomasville Rose Show. Contact Gail Altman, 229-224-1265, gailaltman@altman.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.

Information:

Website: www.tallahasseearearosesociety.org

Meetings: The Tallahassee Area Rose Society meetings are at 7:00 pm on the first Thursday of the month except June and July at the Jubilee Cottage, Goodwood Museum and Gardens.

Membership: Annual dues are \$15 individual, \$20 joint. Contact the treasurer, Mary Maud Sharpe, 850-878-9625, wjmmsharpe@aol.com

DSD Bulletin: 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 Kay Harrell, 121 Shore Rush Circle, St. Simons Island, GA 31522-1420

TARS Officials

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*Denotes Master Rosarian

“Regarding Roses”

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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