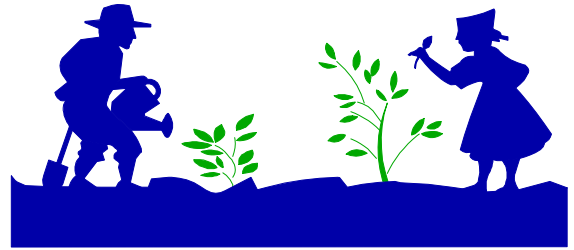


The Bonnie Briar Bush

OFFICIAL BULLETIN OF

THE CORVALLIS ROSE SOCIETY



Affiliate of the American Rose Society

March 2006

Corvallis, Oregon

MARCH MEETING OF CORVALLIS ROSE SOCIETY (CRS)

DATE/TIME: Monday, March 20, 2006 – 7:30pm

LOCATION: Corvallis Chintinimi Senior Center – 2601 NW Tyler in the Game Room just east (or right) of the front entrance. Off-street parking is available from Tyler (small lot) and from 27th Street (large lot). **Maintaining the long-standing tradition, please bring something to share as a door prize!**

NEED A RIDE Contact **Ginger Helfer** at 753.2107 to arrange a ride to the CRS meeting

PROGRAM

1. **THIS MONTH IN YOUR ROSE GARDEN (TMIYRG)**, by **Art Boyle**.
2. **GARDEN CHEMICALS**, a presentation by **Brian Wood** from Wilco Farm Stores, Tangent, OR. Brian will talk about the use and dis-use of chemical treatments for common insect and disease problems in plants. Brian prefers non-chemical if possible. This will be a very informative program.

This Month in My Rose Garden: March

Here are some things to consider this month (though opinions may vary):

- Finish pruning followed by fungicide spray; finger prune to favor growth direction
- Continue to maintain good hygiene by removing weeds, leaves, and other debris
- Finish planting and transplanting rose bushes
- Apply mulch (and some recommend organics such as alfalfa meal or pellets and super-phosphate)
- Plan rest of year's fertilizing/spraying program; try recommendations of others; stock up on selected materials
- Hold off on fertilizing with inorganic or organic nitrogen, but continue spray program with new growth

Avery Park Rose Garden Workshops

After canceling February 18th workshop for reasons of cold weather, twelve CRS members worked diligently at pruning and some planting in the park on February 25th. Our Local Consulting Rosarians provided pruning instruction to others attending who practiced on bushes needing pruning.

As added incentive for attending, **Stan Miles** conducted a drawing for four of last year's AARS rose bushes during the coffee break. Those attending were eligible for the drawing. CRS attendees included: **Janice Hymas, Jim Harper, Earl Hadfield, Vonnie Noble, Emery Castle, Stan Miles, Pat O'Conner, Jan Coxen, Norma Arthur, Marie Flamme, Lou Nagy, and Jen Bergh.**

CRS Fund Raiser



CRS member, **Paul Barden**, has generously donated some roses from **the Uncommon Rose** for us to sell. Donated roses include the following: Berkeley Beauty, Blue Mist, Climbing Earthquake, Ivory Palace, Kayla, Lavender Crystal, Little Pinkie, Lovely Lorrie, Orchid Jubilee, Prom Date, SWALK (Sealed With a Loving Kiss), Softee, and Yellow Bantam. To view these roses and Paul's wonderful photography on the web, go to his site: <http://www.uncommonrose.com>.

We will be selling them at the March CRS meeting for \$5.00 each. The remaining roses will be repotted for sale at the Spring Garden Festival for \$7.50 each.

Please help the CRS save postage by accepting the **BBB** by e-mail each month. If you can, send an e-mail to hadfield2@comcast.net from your preferred address. Your e-mail address will not be shared with others.

CRS Member News: Myron Cropsey

By Heidi Hadlett

When **Myron Cropsey** moved to Timberhill Place a few years ago, he left behind 55 rose plants at his home on Arthur Place. It wasn't long before Myron assumed responsibility for the rose garden at Timberhill. The originally 30 plants are now 43 plants and growing. The small but well designed garden is in back of Timberhill Place and is easily viewed from the walkway behind the building.



His plants are well cared for and it shows. He sprays for fungus on a regular schedule but uses insecticide only as needed. He fertilizes with composted chicken manure ('no flies, no smell') at the start of the season, after the first June bloom, again in mid-July and early August. Spent blooms are removed regularly.

Myron is challenged to name a favorite rose but he is fond of the ladies and has five Ingrid Bergmans and two Elizabeth Taylors, in addition to Double Delight, Dickey, Cardinal, Gold Medal, Oktoberfest, Playgirl, Sea Pearl, Mr. Lincoln and Folklore. Singing in the Rain will soon be added to the list. Recently, **Nancy Mandel** and I offered to help him prune his roses. It was unusually cold that morning so I called to say that we would be there in the afternoon. When we arrived, Myron had completed the task (see photo) and all we could do was help pick up the cuttings.

A few years ago I told Myron that I wanted to grow roses and asked him which ones he recommended. He smiled and asked, 'What kind do you want to grow?' Naively, I responded, 'I want to grow roses like you.'

CRS Bylaw Amendment

By Nancy Mandel

A few years ago we amended the bylaws of the Corvallis Rose Society. The purpose of most of the amendments was to make our bylaws our match current practices. In particular the bylaws stated that officers were elected in September and started their term in November. In practice we have always installed officers in January. So we changed the dates in the bylaws to match our actual calendar. However I missed one. Under Article III: Memberships, our present bylaws read:

Section 2. The membership dues of this society shall be determined by the Board of directors and are due and payable at the September meeting, unless otherwise changed by the membership at that meeting.

The CRS board would like to change the due date to the January meeting. So the bylaws would read:

Section 2. The membership dues of this society shall be determined by the Board of directors and are due and payable at the January meeting, unless otherwise changed by the membership at that meeting.

A membership vote will be held to ratify this proposed amendment.

Cuttings from other Briar Bushes

The following is from the March 2006 newsletter of the Portland Rose Society *Portland Rose Chatter*, **Rich and Charold Baer**, Editors, in Rich's regular column "ROSE RHETORIC".

After the December bout of cold weather it seemed like we were in for a really mild winter. However, it is always the last two weeks of February that I have come to dread in the Portland area. This year it again proved to be the two weeks of the winter with the most potential for damaging our roses. I do not know for sure if there was any actual damage to the rose plants themselves, but there certainly was a considerable amount of burned foliage on many of the plants. In our garden, which is on a slope, I have two separate outside thermometers and the difference between the two in the readings was amazing. The one at the upper portion of the yard indicated that we had no temperatures lower than 21 degrees. That one is located about 5 feet off of the ground. The second thermometer is located at the lowest part of the garden near the ground and it consistently reported temperatures about 5 degrees colder than the one at the other end of the garden. So, the plants at the bottom of the garden seemed to experience about 16 or 17 degrees of cold. I am still of the belief that it takes temperatures colder than 15 degrees to do any serious damage to the more tender rose varieties, but your experience may vary.

The difference in varieties was quite evident when the new foliage was examined. Some roses were totally untouched by the cold and their foliage looked fine. Other bushes had all of their new foliage totally zapped (a

highly technical botanical term for killed) by the cold. Mother nature does provide a natural backup for situations like we experienced. At the same spot where the new growth was coming from, there are what are referred to as axillary buds on either side of the main bud (the one that was growing). These usually remain dormant (never grow), but when the dominant bud is killed they are triggered into growing by the lack of hormones coming from the now dead vegetative growth. So, these things all seem to work out.

If there was any damage to the plants, it is almost always first noticed at the tips of the stems. So if you think that the cold did damage your plants, just cut back a little from the tips until you find good healthy foliage. This is only for those of us who may have gotten out in the nice weather a month or so ago and pruned. Those who have not done any pruning already will find no difference in what they need to do. When pruning, check the color of the pith at the point you cut. If it is a nice ivory or light green, the stem is alive and well. If, however, the pith is dark colored, the stem at that point is dead, and you need to prune lower on that stem until you find that the canes are healthy and undamaged (no dark pith) It does take a couple of weeks for the damage to become apparent, so if you pruned right after the freeze you may find some canes that will show damage a few weeks from now. What you will see is that the new growth will wilt, and, or, die when we get some warm weather, because a stem that has been damaged by cold is not able to transport sufficient water to keep foliage healthy when the plant becomes stressed (warm sunny afternoons). A damaged cane can allow a minimal amount of water to flow through it so that it may be able to maintain foliage while the weather is cool. So, even if you do not find any damage right away, the bush will show exactly where it is later, and for appearance sake you will probably want to cut off those parts, or not, if you do not mind seeing a large dead piece of cane in the middle of an otherwise healthy looking rose plant.

It is not yet time to apply the first fertilizer for the year. For maximum utilization of fertilizer, wait until the bushes have produced four to six inches of new growth. At that time the bushes will be able to utilize the nutrients and fewer of the nutrients will be leached through the soil down into the ground water. When asked, we now are giving another date that is easy to remember, fertilize about April 15th. The directions for using the PRS rose fertilizer are on each bag, so if you purchase that material please read the suggestions for its use on your gardens. Fertilizing too early will not injure the plants, but will result in a waste of fertilizer that you bought. It may also result in an increase in fertilizer elements in the ground water, so please refrain from fertilizing until the plants can actually use it.

Another important task that should be attended to is to keep the annual weeds in check. The cold spell in December prevented a large number of weeds from doing as well during the winter as they usually do. February, as it often does, brought the coldest weather which again set many of the weedy things back a bit. But it was not quite cold enough to harm any of the winter growing weeds. A number of them are currently in flower, especially the *Cardamine hirsutum*, which I finally took the time to key out in one of my botanical keys. It seems everyone has their own name for it, including artillery plant, shot-in-the-eye, and flix weed, all of which refer to the weed's ability to shoot its seeds into your eyes when you are trying to remove it. Remove it a little before the seeds are ripe and it will not do that. And if you like, you can call it hairy bittercress, its botanical common name, referring to the very tiny hairs you see all along the stems if you looked at very up close and personal. If you still do not know which weed this is, it is the one with the rosette of leaves at the bottom and the tiny white flowers which extend over the leaves on a stalk which may range from 1 inch to 12 inches tall. Get them out. Those shooting seeds really spread around for next year. There are a lot of other weeds that are appearing daily in our garden and whenever I take a stroll through the garden I usually stop to pull up a large number of them..Remember a weed removed in time saves nine (or nine hundred).

Although it may be a little wet, this time of year is a good time to apply a new coating of mulch to the garden. The surfaces of our beds are still covered with a good bit of the 31 cubic yards of composted dairy manure we applied last summer. The kind of mulch you use is up to you, but an organic mulch does help prevent weeds, or if not, it at least makes them easier to remove. The surface of our rose beds is soft enough that you can easily push your fingers several inches into them which make removing weeds, even dandelions relatively easy. The mulch also provides a source of nutrients that are slowly released as it decomposes. If part of the mulch is worked into the soil, it will help prevent soil compaction which can lead to oxygen deprivation which is often the cause of general rose decline over time. Keep the soil in good condition and the roses will respond in kind.

Disease prevention is best started as the new growth begins to occur. If possible, apply a fungicide such as Daconil (probably the best product for the prevention of blackspot), or Funginex, or Immunox when you first see the tiny leaves appearing. It is at that time that blackspot begins to establish itself in the garden for the current year. Several early season sprayings can prevent a lot of problems later in the growing season.

Mark Your Calendars

March 20, 2006.....MEETING – GARDEN CHEMICALS
 April 17, 2006..... MEETING – COMPANION PLANTS
 May 7, 2006.....SPRING GARDEN FESTIVAL - ART CENTER PLAZA
 May 15, 2006..... MEETING – BEGINNERS ARRANGEMENTS
 June 10 & 11, 2006..... 66TH ANNUAL CORVALLIS ROSE SHOW

| 2006 CRS Executive Board & Committee Chairpersons | | | ARS Consulting Rosarians | |
|---|---------------|------------------------|---------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| President | Marie Flamme | 754.3088 | Ken Rowe | 752.0725 |
| Vice President | Pat O'Conner | 541.915.5339 | Shirley Pierce (Albany) | 928.3888 |
| Recording Secretary | Pat O'Conner | 928.9464 | Ed Conn (Albany) | 752.3335 |
| Treasurer | Pat Werner | 758.1045 | Local Consulting Rosarians | |
| Director at Large (2 year) | Vonnie Noble | 753.9842 | Paul Barden | 754.6780 |
| Director at Large (1 year) | Art Boyle | 745.5669 | Emery Castle | 752.3755 |
| Rose Show | Nancy Mandel | 752.3769 | Duane Coyier | 926.7648 |
| BBB Editor | Earl Hadfield | 752.3168 | Paul Lorenz | 745.6330 |
| Historian | Vonnie Noble | 753.9842 | Stan Miles | 753.8945 |
| Membership | Heidi Hadlett | 752.0175 (Before 9 pm) | Vonnie Noble | 753.9842 |
| Hospitality (& Name Tags) | TBA | | Bill Somppi | 753.6879 |
| Publicity | Dick Miller | 753.5333 | Mail Dues & Address Changes To: | |
| TMIYRG | Art Boyle | 745.5669 | Heidi Hadlett, CRS Membership | |
| Avery Park Rose Garden | Stan Miles | 753.8945 | 1060 SE Powell Ave | |
| Avery Park Memorial Garden | TBA | | Corvallis, OR 97333 | |
| BBB Articles, Ideas, etc. | | | | |
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Address Correction Requested

