

The Bonnie Briar Bush

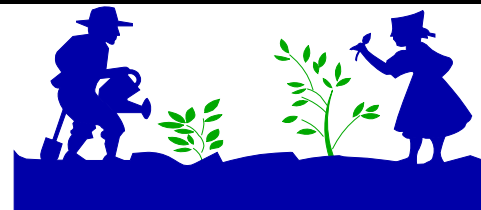
OFFICIAL BULLETIN OF THE CORVALLIS ROSE SOCIETY

Affiliate of the American Rose Society

February 2011

Corvallis, Oregon

CRS web: <http://www.corvallisrosesociety.org/>



NOTE: NO FEBRUARY MEETING OF CORVALLIS ROSE SOCIETY (CRS)

Fewer meetings again this year: See 2011 Corvallis Rose Society Yearbook and *Mark Your 2011 Calendars* this issue.

PRUNING WORKSHOPS: AVERY PARK ROSE GARDEN

On Saturday February 19th from 9:00 am to noon, the hands on workshop will focus on pruning roses. Experienced gardeners will demonstrate techniques and participants will be able to practice their skills in the Avery Park rose garden. Please bring your work gloves and pruners. Donuts and coffee will be provided.

On February 26, if necessary, pruning will continue at the same time.

THIS MONTH IN MY ROSE GARDEN: FEBRUARY

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

- ***PARTICIPATE IN AVERY PARK PRUNING WORKSHOPS SATURDAY FEBRUARY 19th & 26th!***
- Check February *BBB* back issues for pruning advice: http://corvallisrosesociety.org/BBB_home.html
- Prune from middle to end of month; if hard freeze occurs after, may have to re-prune die-back ends
- Continue to maintain good hygiene by removing weeds, leaves, and other debris
- Plant and transplant rose bushes

REMINDER – TIME TO PAY YOUR 2011 CRS MEMBERSHIP DUES

Another year has passed and it's time to renew your membership. At just \$12 per household per year, the cost continues to be affordable (you may pay up to 3 years in advance, but sorry no discount). Please make the check payable to the Corvallis Rose Society and send to the Treasurer: Dina Pope, 15040 Airlie Road, Monmouth, OR 97361. We appreciate your attention and hope you will invite your friends, family and neighbors to join the Society.

GARDENING FOR BIRDS: A CAPSULE SUMMARY

Bill Proebsting

Gardening for birds can be an interesting and useful sideline for the avid rose gardener. In the first place, birds eat insects. If one is gardening for birds, one is really gardening for insects in order to attract the largest variety of birds. Although we may worry about insects attacking our roses, most insects are not plant pests. The more species we attract to our garden, the less likely it is that any one of them will get out of control to create problems. Competition, predation and parasitism work to keep populations from exploding. Ladybugs, lacewings, beetles, flies, spiders and wasps, as well as birds feed on insects and are attracted to good habitat. In addition, birds and insects animate your garden and are fun to have around. They are attractive and interesting to watch as they work in your garden. Think of hummingbirds, butterflies and bees as types that are easy to attract and observe.

The purpose of this article is to outline the general points of gardening for birds. It is written in compact form, so unpack the ideas and consider those you may be able to apply to your garden. It is easy to research these points in print or on-line for more information. At the end of this article, I have suggested some places to start.

Successful bird gardens mimic natural habitat by building ecological complexity into the home landscape. We can easily address this problem if we remember three simple principles: structural diversity, biological diversity and use of native plants. In practice, these are tightly interrelated, but considering each separately can broaden our approach. Let's worry, these ecological principles are also consistent with the principles of designing a good landscape garden.

Think of structural diversity in terms of building the basic framework of your garden:

* ***First***, use a combination of trees and shrubs to create vertical (tall) and horizontal (medium and short) design elements. Birds differ in their preference of where they work in the canopy. Some will be in the tree tops, while others will be closer to the ground.

Since you already have a rose garden, I am picturing that the perimeter of your property will be the core of your bird garden. You may be limited by the size of your yard, so select trees of suitable scale. If you already have a tree(s) in your yard, see if you can add a selection of shrubs underneath and around to build structure. If your neighbors have trees close to your property line, integrate your landscape with these.

***Second**, tie the trees, shrubs and perennials together in a continuous canopy or thicket. Many birds and even insects dislike big gaps in plant cover. Birds will be more inclined to forage or loaf in your garden if there is plenty of foliage. Integrate your rose garden as tightly with this as you can, given light and aesthetic limitations.

***Third**, don't keep your bird garden too neat. Brush piles, dead wood, leaf mulch and even snags provide places for insects to live and, therefore, an opportunity for birds to find them. In other words, keep your pruned wood at home, if you can.

Biological diversity is just that, plant as many trees, shrubs and perennials as you can to provide resources for as many bird and insect species as you can. Select species to provide nectar, pollen and fruit over as much of the year as possible, preferably from multiple plant species with overlapping blooming and fruiting periods. Many woody plants can't pollinate themselves to produce fruit. I find that planting three seedlings of a species usually introduces enough genetic diversity to overcome this problem. Obviously, small gardens will force you to make choices, but you will be surprised how many plants you can pack in.

Using native plant species will give you more bang for your buck, because more birds and insects of this area recognize them as a source of food. This doesn't mean that non-natives don't attract insects and birds, just that natives generally host several times as many. Our objective in gardening for birds is to build a complex food web that is productive and stable. Native plants will help you build complexity more easily.

There are many choices of plants to assemble for your garden. Remember: that different sizes, shapes and textures will benefit birds and also look good; that trees and shrubs flower primarily in the spring and well into June if carefully selected; choose perennials to cover summer, from June into October. Seven or eight months of flowers providing a framework for your spectacular rose collection. Sounds like a nice garden to enjoy and spend time in. **Here are some resources:**

1) *Bringing Nature Home* by Douglas Tallamy. Focused on gardening for birds in the eastern U.S., but the principles are the same and he also has a good plant list for the West in the *Sunset Western Garden Book*. This is a solid general reference for plant characteristics. Oregon State University's Landscape Plants web site is loaded with photos and information about trees and shrubs.

2) Check the web! There are all kinds of good information and ideas. The **OSU Extension** web site has several good bulletins in various categories under Gardening.

3) Sources of plants. **Willamette Gardens** is a native plant nursery located in Corvallis. Their web site has a basic plant list and contact information. **Wallace Hansen Nursery** in Salem has an excellent, informative web site. **Forest Farm Nursery** in southwest Oregon has a good mail order operation. The retail nurseries in Corvallis often have some native trees and shrubs and they are a good source of "nearly native" perennials, such as penstemon, hyssop, and coreopsis, as well as herbs that are such good bee and hummingbird plants.

Have fun out there!

(Bill Proebsting, retired OSU Professor of Horticulture presented "Gardening for Birds—Companions for roses" at the 2011 CRS January Annual Meeting. He emphasized maintenance of structural and biological diversity in our gardens, and choosing native plants (or cultivars thereof) for a continuum of bloom throughout the season, beneficial insects and birds will help keep rose pests under control. In addition, we reap the benefit of having a diverse landscape, and the companionship of birds.)

CUTTINGS FROM OTHER BRIAR BUSHES

Excerpts from the Portland Rose Society's January 2011 *Portland Rose Chatter*, by Editor **Rich Baer** in an article entitled "GETTING OFF TO THE RIGHT START"

We have members of the society at every stage of growing roses, from the very new to those who grew up with roses. Therefore, we sometimes take it for granted that everyone knows exactly what to do and when to do it. Well, that isn't the case, so for the newbies (old timers' can just pass over this) it might be a good idea to touch on the basics.

First of all, don't let your roses intimidate you. Roses are just another plant. You aren't fearful of your petunias, are you? So, don't worry about roses either! They want soil, sunshine, fertilizer, water and some attention to their health, and that's it!

Don't believe everything you read. Rose catalogs would be a good example. They want to sell roses, so they are certainly not going to tell you the negatives about each rose. The best way to find out how that rose does in the Portland area is to visit our three major roses gardens during the growing season and check out your favorites. If you don't find a certain rose there, check with more seasoned rosarians in the group and ask their opinions. They just may grow that variety or type.

Not every year is the same. In some years the summer season is very conducive to good roses, just like in some

years the heat makes watermelon and cantaloupe ripen in your garden and in other years not so well. So if you find a bush that doesn't produce one year, give it one more chance. After all, wouldn't you want another chance if you fail at something? If it doesn't produce the next year, there is the "shovel pruning" method which allows for new roses to be planted.

Stroll through the rose garden regularly. You can keep on top of things such as spider mites if you watch your roses. When you see leaves with a dull appearance, turn them over and check the undersides. Chances are you will see fine webbing or a "salt and pepper" appearance. That means these critters have already set up housekeeping, and they need to be eliminated either with a water wand with a strong water spray, or with a miticide. Fungus diseases can be controlled much easier when you catch them immediately, particularly black spot, rather than finding it when many bushes are infected. Don't listen to old wives' tales. As has been mentioned before, many of the necessary cultural practices from the past have been found to be inaccurate. You should do the logical and then learn from your experience or from talking with other rosarians to see what works and what doesn't. That's why we have our meetings, to allow people time to share information, ideas and tips.

Don't be afraid to ask questions. There's no such thing as a "dumb question." We all started at the same point. It is just that some of us are no longer at that point any more, but we learned by asking questions just as our new members should do. If it bothers you to speak up at a meeting (which it shouldn't) call one of the people listed on the back of the newsletter, either the officers or the consultants. They all will be happy to help you in any way they can. Come to the meetings. The meetings are held to educate - that's the purpose of Portland Rose Society. The newsletter covers what we think you want to know, but it is a one-way communication, not an interaction. We need each other to learn from one another.

Finally one other option is to join the **American Rose Society**. Their full color magazine and Annual expand on what we offer. The following is a way to test the waters of the American Rose Society. Every new member of the PRS will automatically get the following free 4-month trial membership, complements of the American Rose Society. **The Free 4-Month Trial Membership** - is for new Non-ARS, local society members. "New" is the key word here. Every member that joins a local society and is not an ARS member receives a FREE 4-month Trial Membership to ARS. This is a great recruitment tool for the local societies to use when trying to sign up new members: "Join our society today and receive a FREE 4-month trial membership to the American Rose Society - an \$86 value!!" The local society is NOT charged for this. **It is FREE!!** However, the local society MUST send the contact information, including e-mail address, to Laura Pfender laura@ars-hq.org, at Headquarters.

The \$5 4-Month Trial Membership - is available for existing local society, non-ARS members. The \$5. fee offsets processing and mailing costs. The ARS does not make money on this offer. For this small fee, any local society member who is not already an ARS member can try the ARS out and hopefully, like it enough to renew at the full membership rate when the trial membership expires.

In addition: All local societies may also extend this \$5 4-month trial membership to any Non-ARS member attending a rose or garden event that they are hosting. **This is a special offer to Local Societies. The general public not attending a local society event (Non-ARS members) will be offered the 4-month trial membership for a fee of \$10** and this offer is now posted on the ARS website. Of course, if a person joins the local society the 4-month trial membership is free. However if you have someone who does not want to join the local society, they can still be offered a 4-month trial membership to ARS for just \$5. Applications are available on the website or from Laura Pfender.

Four-Month Trial Members receive:

- **2 issues of the American Rose magazine, a \$16 value.** The only magazine devoted exclusively to roses and rose culture, these bi-monthly, full color, 84-page issues feature informative articles and beautiful color photography for beginners and experienced rose growers alike. **View a free issue online at www.ars.org**
- **Free online access to four quarterly bulletins, a \$45 value.** Previously available by subscription only, the *Mini/Miniflora Bulletin*, *Old Garden Rose & Shrub Gazette*, *Rose Arrangers' Bulletin*, and *Rose Exhibitors' Forum* are all now available online, www.ars.org, for **free** to all ARS members, **with the members' password. The members' password is listed on page 5 of each issue of American Rose Magazine.**
- **Free or reduced garden admissions, a \$25 value after just 3 uses.** With the Reciprocal Garden Admission program, **your ARS membership card is your ticket to free or reduced admission to over 200 botanical gardens, conservatories, and arboreta nationwide.**
- **Discounts of up to 30% at merchant partners.** The ARS Member Benefit Partner Program offers discounts at 14 merchants with new partners being added continuously.
- **Free advice from Consulting Rosarians.** The ARS Consulting Rosarians program connects members with expert rosarians that provide free assistance with your rose questions.
- **A four-month trial membership is valued at \$86 for only \$5!**

Mark Your 2011 Calendars

February 19 & 26, 2011 9:00 am..... AVERY PARK – PRUNING WORKSHOPS
 March 21, 2011 MEETING - PANEL GETTING ROSES OF TO GOOD START
 May 16, 2011..... MEETING- ROSE SHOW PEP RALLY

2011 CRS Executive Board & Committee Chairpersons			ARS Consulting Rosarians	
President	Emery Castle	541.752.3755	Ken Rowe	541.752.0725
Vice President	Michael Whiddett	541.998.2052	Shirley Pierce (Albany)	541.928.3888
Recording Secretary	Patricia Loveland	541.745.5496	Local Consulting Rosarians	
Treasurer	Dina Pope	503.838.6444	Emery Castle	541.752.3755
Director at Large (2 year)	Jeff Cope	805.451.0029	Frank Cochrane	541.752.2132
Director at Large (1 year)	America McMillin	- -	Paul Lorenz	541745.6330
Rose Show	Stan Miles	541.753.8945	Stan Miles	541.753.8945
BBB Editor	Earl Hadfield	541.752.3168	Vonnie Noble	541.753.9842
Historian	Vonnie Noble	541.753.9842	Michael Whiddett	541.998.2052
Membership	TBA			
Webmaster	Dina Pope	503.838.6444		
Publicity	TBA	TBA	Mail Dues & Address Changes To:	
Program Chair/TMIYRG	Michael Whiddett	541.998.2052	Dina Pope	
Past President	Pat O'Connor	541.915.5339	CRS Treasurer	
Avery Park Rose Garden	Pat O'Connor	541.915.5339	15040 Airlie Road	
Finance	Emery Castle	541.752.3755	Monmouth, OR 97361	
BBB Articles, Ideas, etc. for Editor: Phone: 541.752.3168, e-mail: hadfield2@comcast.net				

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Earl Hadfield, Editor
 1850 NW Woodland Dr.
 Corvallis, OR 97330-1019

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