



# ROSARIAN REMINDER

Published by  
The Tulsa Rose Society  
*Affiliated with the American Rose Society*  
**April 2009**



This Month's Meeting:

## **Tulsa Garden Center**

**2435 S Peoria**

**Tulsa, OK**

**2:00 PM**

**April 5, 2009**

*Pearls of Rose Wisdom for the  
Novice and Advanced Rosarian*

**Ralph Cooper**

**Refreshments**

**Helen Reeher, Jan Edwards**

**Alice Klein**

## ***Goings On . . .***

Our April meeting speaker, Ralph Cooper, is well known to most of our society. He has been a top exhibitor in our Spring Show for years. He is also a top award winner in district and national shows.

Ralph lives in Van Buren, AR on a bluff overlooking a valley. In addition to Ralph's roses their yard has many annuals and perennials making it a very enjoyable place to live. Ralph is a Consulting Rosarian and judge and recognized throughout the district for his expertise. Ralph missed our workshop because he with visiting his grandchildren in Texas.

April showers bring May flowers, we hope. Our May meeting will also be a week early due to Mothers' day. Brenda Johnson has planned out a tour of some gardens for our education and enjoyment. The following is Brenda's note:

Our Sunday May 3rd general meeting will be a garden tour of fellow Rosarians' home gardens. We will be touring Jan Edwards' garden which will feature a small rose garden. Our second home on the tour will be Ron and Joan Anderson's garden. This garden will feature roses, flowering shrubs and other companion plants. Our third rose garden will be Dr. Don and Brenda Johnson's large rose garden with around 500 roses with about 450 varieties located in Sapulpa. We will serve refreshments at the Johnsons.

Our fourth garden is out in the country and we will car pool to Dr. Sandy Carroll's farm in Kellyville from Don and Brenda's garden. Sandy's garden will feature many of the David Austin English Roses. We will meet in the parking lot of the Tulsa Garden Center at 2:00 PM. Maps will be given out and guests are welcome. Happy Easter! Brenda and Don Johnson

These garden tours help us with ideas as to what we might be able to do in our gardens. Small gardens can be just as interesting as large gardens since that is what most of us have. Mark your calendar!

## **Events to Come**

**Regular meetings are held at the  
Tulsa Garden Center the second Sunday  
of each month at 2:00 PM**

Business Meetings are held at the  
Tulsa Garden Center the first Wednesday  
of each month at 10:00 AM in the Volunteer Room

April	5	Monthly Meeting: Ralph Cooper
May	3	Monthly Meeting: Member Garden Tours
May	15	Setup for show at the Tulsa Garden Center
May	16	Spring Rose Show
May	20	TGC Brown Bag - rose program
June	14	Picnic at Tulsa Garden Center
July	12	Monthly Meeting: Fertilizers, chemicals and equipment for the rose garden
August	9	Monthly Meeting: Garden Pest control
Sept & Oct		Little Rose Show at our meetings

Visit the Tulsa Rose Society website for the full year of meeting dates after the calendar is known.

**TULSA ROSE SOCIETY  
BUSINESS MEETING  
March 4, 2009**

President Butch Neumeier called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m. at the Tulsa Garden Center. Members present: Butch Neumeier, Jan Edwards, Norma Hedrick-Whitehead, Anna Staggs, Wayne Parker, Dennis Voss, John Carter and Judy Carter.

The minutes were approved as published in the *Rosarian Reminder*. Judy gave the Treasurer's report and noted that assets total \$25,341.12. The report will be filed for audit.

**Old Business:** The upcoming Winter Workshop sponsored by the Tulsa Rose Society and the South Central District was discussed. Final plans for the Friday evening reception and setup for the Saturday session including registration were completed. Anna reviewed the plans for food at the Friday evening event. Jan will provide a cake, Norma will bring wine, Butch will bring coffee and John will supply cold drinks. Butch will meet the presenters at the airport and see that they get dinner before the reception in room 228 at the airport Radisson Hotel. Judy reported that she has over 65 registrations at this time.

**New Business:** John presented the Spring Show Schedule for review. We still need more committee chairs. John asked if the Board wants to continue with the photography exhibit. Butch said that he would check with Don Johnson about the expected expenses and ask if any member would like to take on this effort since it requires the total setup on Friday before the show is judged. Anna asked that her name be removed as Design Chair since she may be called upon to judge that day.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:30 a.m.

Judith Carter, Acting Secretary

**Note: Business meetings are open to all members who have a interest in the workings or the Tulsa Rose Society. They are conducted at a different time from our regular meetings so they can focus on programs to help you grow roses.**

**TULSA ROSE SOCIETY  
GENERAL MEETING  
March 8, 2009**

President Butch Neumeier called the meeting to order at 2:10 p.m. at the Tulsa Garden Center. Butch welcomed everyone and Jan Edwards announced the guests present. He also reminded everyone that John Carter had fertilizer orders ready to pick up. Butch also thanked everyone for their support of the Winter Workshop held the day preceding the meeting. Judy Carter reported that we had 76 attendees and earned \$460.50 at the silent auction.

Bob House was our invited speaker and he gave our program on rose disease prevention. Following the program and awarding of door prizes, Butch announced that the membership needed to elect a member-at-large for this year's Board. Roger Mathews was nominated; the motion was seconded and approved by the majority.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:25 p.m. for refreshments.

Judith Carter, Acting Secretary

**Workshop Summary**

We had a great workshop with over 70 paid registrations. The speakers did a great job and kept the audience interested. The silent auction raised \$460.50 and we expect to have \$1000 left after expenses from the workshop. This will insure the funding of our scholarship this year. A special thanks goes to Dennis Voss and John Kahre for their help in securing the facilities at Tulsa Community College.



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- Rose Bushes, over 600 varieties
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***ORGANICS (What's all the fuss about?) . . . . .by Ed Bradley***

This article was taken from the March issue of the San Antonio Rose Society (*SARS Bulletin*)

There is a great deal of hype these days about protecting our environment. As gardeners, we have collectively demonstrated a concern for the environment, by the simple act of gardening and attempting to make our world a little prettier, a little healthier, and a little better. Organics are touted for use in two major areas of horticulture:

1.) In controlling pests (insects, mites, and fungi); and, 2.) In providing the necessary nutrients for plant growth and production. This article will address the benefits of using organics as plant nutrients. This is not to say that chemical fertilizers are bad – they are not. Chemical compositions provide a relatively inexpensive and easy way to get a concentration of nutrients in the soil and to the plant. However, there is a need for a balanced use of organic nutrients as well as chemical compositions.

Being a “book-educated horticulturist” (MS Hort, LSU), I tend to view with skepticism most claims or statements which are without some scientific basis. I subscribe to the argument that plants do not know the origin of a nutrient once it is in soluble form. However, in the case of organics, I have come to accept that there perhaps is an unexplainable goodness, even though the scientific evidence may not be readily obvious.

**Why use organics?**

There is a fairly common belief that organics produce a somewhat slower, but stronger plant growth. What is stronger? More resistant, more resilient, more drought tolerant – these and other attributes equate to a healthier plant, capable of producing larger, prettier flowers, more and bigger fruit, or whatever the plant is designed to do. Organics serve as a soil activator, while improving the soil structure. Organics are generally slow acting since they must decompose; therefore, they are fairly mild and do not present a threat of chemical “burn” during our hot summer months. All nutrients in organics are available. That is, the components become soluble in a soil solution. Nutrients can only be taken in by the plant if they are in liquid form. That is why “*Nothing happens without water!*”

**What are the common organics?**

- **Manure:** Manure is animal waste (dung and urine), generally absorbed in straw or wood shavings which are used as stable floors. Nutrients in manures must be decomposed before they can be used by the plant. Those in urine, however, are immediately available. A large part of manure is humus. Manures contain a high concentration of soluble salts.
- **Fish Meal or Emulsion:** This is made from non-edible fish, such as menhaden and dogfish, from offal (heads, tails, entrails, etc.) from fish canneries and spoiled edible fish.
- **Alfalfa Meal or Pellets:** When decomposed, alfalfa provides an excellent source of nitrogen and an important growth regulator, called triacontanol
- **Cottonseed Meal:** The residue left after the oil has been extracted by compression of cottonseeds. Mostly used as cattle feed; however, the higher grades can be used as organic fertilizer.
- **Blood Meal:** Dried blood, collected from slaughtered animals. One of the richer organic forms of nitrogen.

- **Bone Meal:** Skeletons of vertebrates which have been softened by steam and ground into a meal.
- **Guano:** Partially decomposed excrements of birds, bats, seals and similar animals.
- **Sludge:** Activated sewage sludge is prepared by inoculating the sewage with special microorganisms and aerating for several days. Many cities in the U.S. use this process but only a few heat-dry the product for sale as commercial fertilizer. Milorganite, Hu-Actnrite, Chicagrow and Nitroganic are trade names for sludge materials. San Antonio Water System (SAWS) began this process a few years ago, which is now being managed by Garden-Ville. The product is available in a compost called *Alamo-Gro*. (*Editors Note: Most of these items refer to things found in the San Antonio area. Milorganite can be found in the Tulsa area.*)
- **Compost:** Most good compost has a manure base, with several other organic materials, such as green waste (leaves, grass), hay/straw, pine bark and other wood products, forest floor, cotton burrs, rice hulls, etc. To be good compost, all components, including the manures, should be well decomposed. When used as mulch, compost is an excellent source of organic nutrients.

#### NUTRIENT VALUE OF ORGANICS:

	N	P	K		N	P	K
Manures	.5	.3	.4	Blood	12	0	0
Fish	9	7	1	Bone	0	20	0
Alfalfa	3	2	.5	Guano	12	11	2
Cottonseed	6	2	1	Sludge	5	2	2

There is literally a plethora of other forms of organic fertilizers, liquids as well as granules. Seaweed extract, kelp, green sand, and the so-called juices, hormones, rocket fuels, etc. One of the more popular granular foods is the 100% organic Garden-Ville 7-2-2. You can also get ready mixed products such as Garden-Ville Rose Food, Rose-Glo, or Mills Magic Mix. Even more products are being formulated as you read this. Most, however, will be some unique combination of the basic organic ingredients.

A good feeding program should incorporate all essential elements of nutrients on a fairly regular basis. Alternating organic and chemical fertilizer applications is an excellent practice. Organics may be the “food of choice” during hot summer months, and to be added in late Winter or very early Spring, since the nutrients become available to the plants more slowly. Such use would also take advantage of the soil-structure-building attributes of organics. On the other hand, well balanced chemical compositions should be used for the Spring and Fall bloom cycles when you want that fast, luscious growth, flowers, fruit or veggies. As a gardener, you need to carefully establish your goals for a well-balanced feeding program, then seek out the products that will produce the desired results.

#### *What do your roses really need?*

Are you feeding your roses regularly but not seeing the results that you expect? If your soil does not have the proper pH the root system can not use the nutrients that are available. Roses normally do best in a pH range of 6 to 6.5. Seven is neutral so your roses like a slightly acid soil. If the pH is too low the root system may take up too many of the heavier metals and damage your rose. Too high and they do not get enough iron & manganese. pH is not quickly changed. It is a very slow process so if you do not want to wait you may have to change the soil or planting mix to get a quicker response. Regular testing and application of the correct balance of fertilizers will help prevent the problem. Organic fertilizers are slow in release and help keep the soil balanced, but they are low in nitrogen so you may need to supplement it.

## Pruning Roses 101

By Nanette Londeree

Copied from the ARS Website

There seems to be a lot of mystery surrounding rose pruning, as well as lots of "rules" to follow in order to do it correctly. If I have learned anything over the last decade of pruning hundreds of roses, it is that roses are very forgiving. If you cut too high, too low, at an inward facing bud rather than an outward facing one - in the long run, it really will not make a lot of difference. If the resulting growth does not grow in the fashion or direction you desire, cut it again to correct it. Once you realize that there is not too much one can do wrong, it makes the whole job much easier.

### A few lessons learned by this rosarian (the hard way):

1. Do not prune old roses (once bloomers) in the winter or spring. The blooms on the old roses are produced on current growth. If you prune them now, you are pruning your spring flowers away!
2. Do not prune newly planted roses - they need to get established before you remove any growth (other than dead wood).
3. Prune first year roses (those you have grown for one season) lightly. They may not have developed a lot of top growth the first season, and need all their canes to continue to thrive.

Now for a few general pruning tips:

1. Invest in a good pair of shears and keep them oiled, adjusted and very sharp! Do not use anvil-type shears because they bruise the bark. If you use loppers, make sure they are also the pass-through type. A small pruning saw is a necessity for large canes and for getting into places that cannot be reached with shears or loppers.
2. Wear good, strong, durable gloves. They should be sturdy but flexible. It is also beneficial to use gloves with gauntlets that cover the forearm. Wear hard finish clothing such as denim and wear long sleeves.
3. Remove every leaf from newly pruned bushes; diseases tend to carry over in winter on old green leaves left on the bush. Once pruning is done, it is an excellent time to do a dormant spray; this will reduce insects and disease in the upcoming season.
4. Pay attention to where you are placing your hands. Roses don't stick you; you stick yourself on the roses! Experienced pruners rarely get severely scratched but it is a good idea to check to see if you have had a tetanus shot in the last 10 years.
5. Start at the bottom of the bush but look at the top before cutting. Do not let the "decisions" about what to cut make you tense or slow you down.
6. The cane will tend to grow in the direction the top bud is pointing - cut to an outside bud on upright bushes and to an inside bud on sprawling bushes. Cut about 1/4" away from the bud. If cut closer, the new growth may break off. If cut longer, an unsightly stub will remain.
7. Cut back to good healthy wood. Discolored pith (interior of cane) may indicate frost or disease damage, and while such a cane may bloom, it will usually die back come summer. At best it is a poor framework for future growth.
8. Remove about one-third to one-half of the volume of the plant, leaving healthy canes, and the center of the plant open.
9. Large canes can be cut easily with sharp shears if they are bent slightly away from the cutting edges of the shears.
10. Do not worry if the cut cane bleeds; there is no evidence to show that it is harmful to either roses or grapevines. It is not necessary to seal cuts in climates where there are no destructive cane borers.

## Inside Roses

### A personal investigation into the anatomy and physiology of the rose

by Dr. Gary A. Ritchie • 8026 61st Ave. NE • Olympia, WA 98516

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### *Nutrient Uptake — Part III*

Spring is here. You have applied fertilizer to the soil around your rose bushes and watered it in deeply. The mineral nutrients in the fertilizer have dissolved (ionized) in the soil water. Some of these ions have attached themselves to charges on the surfaces of the soil particles, while most remain dissolved in the soil solution. The soil is moist, but pockets of air exist between and among the particles. Okay – so now what? How do those nutrient ions get inside your plant? And how do they move to the flowers, leaves, buds and other areas where they are needed for growth and metabolism?

In very simple terms, there are three ways this can happen, or three mechanisms of nutrient uptake and transport: (1) ion exchange, (2) diffusion and (3) mass flow. Let's take them one at a time.

*Ion exchange or contact exchange.* Nearly all of the ion exchange sites in the soil, whether they reside on soil particles or on the surfaces of organic material, carry negative charges. This means that they attract and hold positively charged ions – or cations. Remember from the last column which nutrients have positive charges? (Hint: potassium, calcium, magnesium, iron, zinc, etc.). In the exchange process, the plant root surfaces secrete positively charged ions that the plant doesn't need. The plant basically "swaps" these for the positively charged ions it wants and leaves the unneeded ions on the soil exchange sites. As roots proliferate and plow forward into the soil they exploit new regions, exchanging and taking up ions that they need.

This process is important but not as important as you may think. For one thing, it works for cations only - but many key nutrients are anionic, or negatively charged (nitrate, phosphate and sulfate for example). Furthermore, the total nutrient uptake that occurs via ion exchange is minor because most of the exchangeable ions are in the soil solution and not stuck to the exchange sites.

*Diffusion.* This is simply the migration of ions from a region where they are highly concentrated to a region of lower concentration. So when roots deplete ions from an area in the rhizosphere (soil near the roots), if these ions are present in higher concentrations outside the rhizosphere they can move in to replace the depleted ions. This mechanism is particularly important for uptake of phosphorus and potassium.

*Mass flow.* This is the most important uptake process. Remember in Part I of this series we talked about a system of pipes, called xylem, that runs up the stem from root hairs to leaves and terminates at pores called stomata. During daylight, when the stomata are open, water vapor from inside the leaf evaporates out through the pores – a process called transpiration. (I plan to write more about transpiration in a future column). This causes the tissues inside the leaf to dry slightly, which puts a tension on the water column in the xylem, pulling water up through the plant – a process somewhat analogous to sipping water up through a drinking straw. This lost water is replaced by soil moisture taken up by the roots.

In mass flow, many of the dissolved ions in the soil moisture are simply pulled into the plant and up the xylem. This is called a "passive" process because the plant doesn't need to expend energy for it to happen. The source of the energy for transpiration is the heat that causes evaporation (i.e., the sun).

A final important point concerns the movement of ions from outside the root cells to inside the root cells into the xylem. Some ions move through the cell walls while others move across the cell membranes. Cell membranes are comprised of a lipid sheet with protein molecules embedded in and on it. Some of these molecules act as "channels" through which certain ions pass. Others serve as "carriers" that ferry specific nutrient ions across the membrane into the cell. This process requires that the plant expend energy.

Implications for rose growers? When leaves lose water faster than the roots can replenish it, they go into a condition called water stress and the stomata close. When stomata close two things happen: (1) CO<sub>2</sub> uptake ceases, so photosynthesis stops, and (2) transpiration ceases, so nutrient uptake through mass flow stops. This leads to a key point, one that every serious rosarian already knows: *water is the most important summer fertilizer.* We'll talk more about this in the next column, so keep it right here.

### *What to do in April*

- Water is always a must. Some areas have received nice rainfall but other areas, like my garden, have had less than an inch this year. Check your soil and see that it is moist. Especially check newly planted roses and area where you used a planting mix with a lot of peat in it. That peat is slow to absorb water.
- Start your disease prevention process. This generally means spraying. Keep in mind that you have a lot of new foliage developing at this time. Even if your spraying is to last 14 days remember it is only on the foliage that was there when you sprayed. You may have a lot of new foliage in only a week.
- You should have your pruning completed now but it is not too late to start. If you have dead canes cut them back to the ground or bud union. If you are not sure how a particular type of rose should be pruned check the ARS website or many online resources or books available. You can also call one of our Consulting Rosarians.
- Your roses are going to be hungry and need a good feeding to get them started off. This is a good time to use natural/organic feeding material. The Mills Magic we ordered can be applied around the base of each bush. Pull back the mulch and spread it evenly around the bush according to the directions. Stir it into the surface of the soil slightly and replace your mulch. You should have watered before feeding (basic rule of fertilizing). Water again after replacing the mulch.
- You may need to add mulch to your beds. Your mulch will naturally break down and add valuable nutrients to your soil so you need to keep replenishing it to maintain a 3 to 4 inch level. This will help preserve the moisture and protect the roots from the extreme temperatures.
- Spend some time in the Tulsa Rose Garden helping the staff there. Our next workday will be Saturday, April 4th. The roses are in pretty good shape but there is dead wood to be cut out and they need to be cut back some so they will produce new growth and more blooms. Remember that roses are very forgiving and they will grow back if you cut too much off and they will still bloom if you don't cut enough off. You can't make fatal mistakes. Give it a try.

The Rosarian Reminder is published monthly by the Tulsa Rose Society. Submit information and articles to John Carter, Editor at 1825 West Lincoln St, Broken Arrow, OK 74012-8509 or via email at [editor@tulsarosesociety.org](mailto:editor@tulsarosesociety.org) or call 918-355-8020.

Newsletters are mailed to Tulsa Rose Society members. Memberships are \$15 for individuals and \$20 for families. Membership benefits include the newsletter, group purchases of roses and rose care products and support from an active organization.

#### **Your Club officers for 2008 are:**

Ed (Butch) Neumeier - President  
 Don Johnson - First Vice President - Programs  
 Jan Edwards - Second Vice President - Membership  
 Rose Rusman - Secretary  
 Judith Carter - Treasurer  
 Brenda Johnson - Immediate Past President

#### **Consulting Rosarians:**

Bobby Palmer (East Tulsa) - 663-4580  
 Norma Whitehead (North Broken Arrow) - 286-8244  
 Troy Garrett (Checotah) 473-5649  
 Don & Brenda Johnson (Sapulpa) 227-1954  
 John Carter (North Broken Arrow) 355-8020  
 Mark Stelljes (South Broken Arrow/Bixby) 455-7673  
 Butch Neumeier (Claremore) 342-2885  
 Alice Klein (Collinsville) 371-2540

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](http://www.tulsarosesociety.org).

#### **Member News**

- Anna Staggs continues to recover after suffering a fall in her home.
- Jerry and Fern Rake face continuing health issues.
- Jean Sluder has moved from Inola to Broken Arrow so it will be easier for her to attend meetings.
- Julie Skye is our newest member. She attended the workshop and our meeting the following day. Julie is active in the Friends of Woodward Park committee and has been involved with the Tulsa Garden center for several years.

#### **Mills Magic Still Available**

If you ordered Mills Magic products they will be available at the next meeting. I also ordered 3 extra 10# canisters of Mills magic. They are \$15 each. This is the ideal size for someone with just a few roses. I also have 3 half gallon containers of the liquid Easy Feed. They are \$17.50 each. Mix this at the rate of 1 tbs per gallon and water your roses. It's very effective in giving your roses a good boost.

Tulsa Rose Society  
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First Class Mail

**Help Wanted: We need an unlimited number of persons to help prune roses in the Tulsa Rose Garden, Saturday, April 4, 2009. Come anytime after 8:00 AM. Payment - Beautiful Roses for you and the citizens of Tulsa to see.**



Photos from Pruning at the Tulsa Rose Garden on March 21, 2009.

