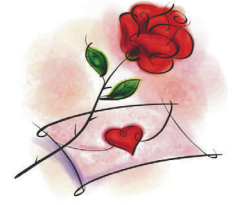




# ROSARIAN REMINDER

Published by  
The Tulsa Rose Society  
*Affiliated with the American Rose Society*  
**April 2010**



This Month's Meeting:

**Tulsa Garden Center  
2435 S Peoria**

**Tulsa, OK**

**2:00 PM**

**April 11, 2010**

**“Tulsa Rose Garden Volunteers,  
Needs and Training”  
Maureen Turner, Speaker**

**Refreshments**

**Butch Neumeier & Alice Klein**

## 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

### *Looking forward to 2010:*

April 11 - Maureen Turner “Tulsa Rose Garden Volunteers,  
Needs, and Training.”

April 27 - May 2 - ARS National Convention - Shreveport, LA

May 9 - A Rose to Honor your Mother - Preparing for the  
Spring Rose Show.

May 29 - “A Birthday Celebration” Spring Rose Show  
celebrating the 65th birthday of the Tulsa Rose Society

Oct 22 - 24 - SCD Show and Convention - Tulsa

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

## *What's happening . . .*

Just when we thought that spring had sprung winter gave us a flash back with another snow storm. The good was in the moisture and how short in duration it was.

March started off with the Winter Workshop in Oklahoma City. They put together a great program including Jeff Wyckoff, President of the American Rose Society.

Our March meeting was great with a new and interesting program on the botany of the Rose presented by our own Dennis Voss. Dennis continued in his role as instructor at TCC and gave us a view of the rose from the inside out and a better understanding of our roses from the botanical perspective.

Our first pruning weekend had to be cancelled due to the cold and snow. However, on the 27th the weather was cool, but we had 17 people show up for training from Mark and to help prune in the garden. We had 7 TRS members also helping with pruning.

March 27th was also Ecofest at TCC where TRS had a membership booth and roses for sale. We sold about enough roses to cover our cost so those we sell next weekend will produce income for us.

## *Help Wanted*

**TRS members to meet fellow gardeners  
and share information about the Tulsa  
Rose Society and help raise funds for the  
society through the sale of roses and fer-  
tilizer. Tulsa Garden Center Spring Fest  
2435 S Peoria, Tulsa. The hours are:  
Friday, April 9th and Saturday April 10th  
9 AM until 4 PM**

**Please call Rose Rusnam at 342-5178 to  
schedule a day and time that you can  
help!**

**TULSA ROSE SOCIETY  
BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES  
Wednesday, March 3, 2010**

The Tulsa Rose Society Executive Board meeting was held March 3, 2010. President Butch Neumeier called the meeting to order at 10:11 a.m. The minutes were approved. The Treasurer's report was filed for audit. The President reminded everyone that the SpringFest Garden Mart at TGC will be April 9<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, and 11<sup>th</sup>.

The Spring Show will be the 28<sup>th</sup> of May, Memorial Day weekend. Butch is in charge of setup, Brenda will take judges to the Olive Garden, John is in charge of staging, and Rose is in charge of tallying and has mentioned a need for volunteers to help. We also need volunteers for workers at the show. John Carter noted that a new sign has been constructed out front and repaired. It requires 12½-inch by 48-inch signs, which will require us making two new signs to fit. Motion to purchase two signs was made by Brenda Johnson and seconded by Rose Rusnam. One sign will read "Tulsa Rose Society Today." The second sign will read "Tulsa Rose Society Show This Saturday." Motion was voted upon and approved.

Pruning in the Tulsa Rose Garden will be two consecutive Saturdays, March 20<sup>th</sup> and March 27<sup>th</sup>.

The Fall Rose Show and District Show were discussed including rental of a tour bus. Likely tour gardens will be the Johnsons, Andersons, Tulsa Rose Garden and the Linnaeus Garden.

It was noted that the Tulsa Garden Center is asking various affiliates to enter birdhouses in a contest for SpringFest. Birdhouses are being supplied but they need to be decorated, or affiliates or individuals may construct their own birdhouse. Contact TGC for further information.

Meeting was adjourned by President Butch Neumeier. The next Board meeting will be April 7th.

Respectfully submitted,

Dennis A. Voss

**This n' That**

Show schedules are available on our website and will be available at our April and May meetings. Our theme this year is "Celebrating Our 65th Birthday". (Does that mean we can apply for Social Security?)

We welcome Cheryl & Allen Cox who joined us at the March meeting. They are new to the area so let's give them a big welcome and answer their questions.

Anna Staggs recently had eye surgery and is recuperating at home. We miss Anna at our meetings and hope she is back with us soon. She has been a fixture in TRS for many years. She would enjoy your calls.

Former TRS President James Phillips recently passed away in Springdale, AR. He was 80. His services and burial were in Tulsa. Jim was president from 1975 through 1976. He was awarded the Bronze service award in 1982.

Be sure to mark Oct. 22-24 on your calendar for the fall South Central District Show and meeting here in Tulsa at the Doubletree Hotel at Warren Place. The program, show schedule and events are coming together so everyone should have a great time. It is an opportunity for you to enter a fall show since we will not be at the Tulsa State Fair this fall. Please be giving your roses that care that they will need this spring to produce well for the fall show -- and then enjoying entering them!

Tell me what you would like to see in **YOUR** newsletter. Share your experiences both good and bad so we might educate others. A page or a paragraph, I can find space for it.



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Mark Stelljes Owner/operator  
ARS Consulting Rosarian

13201 South 129th East Ave  
Broken Arrow, Ok 74011  
(South of 131st on 129th E Ave)

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- Open Monday - Saturday  
9 AM - 4 PM

## ***Rosemania Recommends Choosing a Good Spray Program***

***By Robbie Tucker***

Regardless of claims made by rose companies of “disease resistance”, most roses require a spray program to prevent disease such as *blackspot*, *powdery mildew* and *rust*. The key word to remember is “**prevent**”. Once your roses become infected, left untreated you can generally count on losing most of the leaves. No leaves means no photosynthesis and that equates to NO ROSES! While you can spray to eliminate such problems, the best strategy is to prevent them from happening in the first place.

First, a little lesson in terminology. The term “pesticide” includes fungicide, insecticide, miticide and herbicide. I tell you this because some people confuse the word “pesticide” with “insecticide”. I don’t like to spray pesticides any more often than necessary and I want to use the least toxic materials that will actually work. This is why I have chosen products that only need to be sprayed every two weeks. But before we talk about what products to use, let’s take some time to talk about spray safety.

It is important to wear proper safety equipment when spraying your roses. You want to protect your lungs, your eyes and your skin. No pesticide, not even home-made remedies are good for your lungs so be sure to wear a pesticide respirator any time you are spraying. Remember, if you can smell it, you are breathing it! A paper mask WILL NOT protect your lungs from pesticide vapors.

For eye protection, wear goggles (these will fit over your glasses) or safety glasses with side shields. To protect your skin you should at a minimum wear long pants and a long sleeve shirt. **Tyvek** coveralls are fantastic for this purpose. After each spray, I hang them up in my garage. They can be used many times before simply throwing them away. This also prevents the need to wash pesticide coated clothing in your washing machine. For hand protection, there is no better product available than **Nitril Disposable Gloves**. Each box comes with 100 gloves. Use once and throw away.

For gardens of 50 roses or less, a practical program would be **Banner Maxx sprayed** every 14 days. I also mix **Mancozeb** or **Pentathlon DF** with the **Banner Maxx** both at full strength) every other time I spray. **Banner Maxx** is very economical when you take into consideration that one teaspoon will make three gallons of spray solution. This means a one pint bottle will make almost 300 gallons. The shelf life of a bottle of **Banner Maxx** is 5 years from the time it is first opened if stored properly. We now have **Banner Maxx** in a generic formulation (**Honor Guard**) at a reduced price. While the price of **Banner Maxx** has increased this year, **Honor Guard** has not making it an even better pick. Be sure to ask for it when you call or read about it on our website.

Choose a spray day that generally is good for you. For me, that is usually Friday. If it rains on Friday, I spray on Saturday but keep my regular day (Friday) in two weeks when it is time to spray again. If it rains after you have sprayed, the plants are protected **IF** the spray had dried before the rain. For those who want the best preventative spray program available, consider alternating **Compass** with **Banner Maxx** every 14 days to prevent the fungus spores from building up a resistance to the use of only one systemic fungicide.

I don’t use insecticides unless I have an insect problem. The trouble with insecticides is that they don’t just kill the aphids, white flies and other chewing insects. They also kill ladybugs, green lacewings and other beneficial insects that eat aphids and spider mites. Overuse of insecticides will cause you more problems than solutions, so use them only when they are needed. I can highly recommend **Orthene** and **Merit** for control of most chewing and sucking insects.

*(continued next page)*

Our phone calls indicate that many of you are dealing with an insect called the “thrip”. These are tiny insects that love to get inside your rose blooms and suck all the juice out of the petals. They start on the outside petals causing them to lose their substance and making it impossible for the bloom to open. You will notice the edges of light colored roses turning brown. Many think the thrip prefers the lighter colored roses but I believe they are just easier to recognize on lighter colors than reds. You can positively identify the culprit by opening up an affected bloom. You will see what looks like many tiny hopping wood splinters running around the inside of the blooms. Some of you in Florida and southern states are also dealing with the dreaded Chilean thrip. This species not only attacks the blooms but also can attack the foliage of the plant. Both types can be difficult to control.

For years the preferred method was to mist the blooms with *Orthene* daily. The reason you only mist the blooms is to keep from killing all the beneficial insects in your garden from heavy pesticide use. With the introduction of *Conserve SC* a few years ago, it is now much easier to control thrips and various bud worms and caterpillars. *Conserve* is a new kind of insecticide derived from bacteria. It will not kill beneficial insects like lady bugs and praying mantis but will do a great job of controlling thrips. I like to start adding *Conserve SC* to my regular spray mix in the spring as soon as I see buds forming. I continue to use the *Conserve* until the end of July and then I give it a break until mid September. This preventative program has served me well the past three years. If you have an infestation of thrips, you may want to combine *Conserve* with *Merit* for a quick knockdown.

Another good insecticide is *Talstar*. It will give good control of aphids and will also kill cucumber beetles. The cucumber beetle can look different depending on the geographical location but in most areas they appear to be a green ladybug. The cucumber beetle will eat holes in your bloom and can be a big nuisance.

I spray early in the morning or late in the afternoon when it is cool. It is best to spray after the dew has evaporated in mornings or before it gets dark in afternoons. Be sure to use a spreader-sticker in your spray mix. The natural oil in rose leaves will cause some high surface tension between the spray solution and the rose leaves. This is what causes the water to “bead up” on the leaf like water does on a waxed table. Unless this surface tension is broken, the spray will not evenly cover (and protect) your plants. *Indicate 5* has been the spreader sticker of choice for many years and I can’t recommend it enough. A quart goes a long way. Simply mix your chemicals in your sprayer and add the *Indicate 5* last. Only add enough to turn the water pink. Once it stays pink, you are ready to start spraying.

Be sure to choose a sprayer that is right for your garden. In most cases, a 2 gallon pump sprayer will work well. If it takes you longer than one hour to spray your roses from start to cleanup, you don’t have the right equipment. For large gardens or for those who want the best sprayer on the market, you cannot beat the *Spot-shot*. The *Special Rosemania Version* has been customized to our specifications. The 50 foot hose enables the user to cover large areas without moving the sprayer while the 30” wand is the perfect length for getting the under-side of leaves while minimizing stooping and bending. For small or large gardens, the *Hudson\_ever-Pump* is a great choice if you can carry weight on your back. This 4 gallon battery powered backpack has a 10 hour battery life and has been extremely popular with our customers. *TIP: Many customers who want a battery powered sprayer but don’t want to carry it have strapped the Never-Pump to a light-weight mover’s dolly.*

While we also carry several pump-type sprayers, I don’t want to forget to mention the *Duromax Battery Powered Sprayer*. While not as powerful as either of the two battery-powered sprayers mentioned above, it is still wonderful for small gardens and small jobs.

***SOIL: THE SOUL OF LIFE***

*By Ted W. Mills, ARS Consulting Rosarian and Judge*

When I was a boy, growing up in the Deep Depression of the 30's, my elementary school teacher assigned soil as a subject on which to write an essay. At the time I thought it to be a monumental task. Quick research revealed just the opposite. After all, we were living at a time and place where it was essential to grow one's own food in order to survive. A small garden space provided my family the necessary area to ply agriculture. I found that writing the article was far easier than growing vegetables in the family-owned lot. Nearby coal mines had washed black silt on to our plot and remedial action had to be taken in order to grow good crops. It was then that I was introduced to soil improvement. Good soil was mandatory to grow vegetables in order to thwart the pangs of hunger.

Yes, we no longer possess Garden of Eden's quality of soil. To enjoy the lush beauty of plants in that first garden we must add considerable amendments to current soil. We also must realize that not every garden's soil is the same. In fact, not every space in our own lot enjoys the same fertility. That's where soil testing comes into play. Soil analysis is the first step toward soil improvement. Using the services of the local agricultural extension agency will be the best route to soil improvement. Knowing what is needed to make it right is the surest prescription for remedial action. One very important finding will be the state of soil pH. Without it's proper balance (6.5 ideal) all fertilizing will be for naught. The rose root system simply cannot ingest the nutrition that feeding furnishes without a proper pH reading.

To really understand soil we must first recognize what place it has in all life on this planet. Every living thing owes its existence to the soil. That is the reason for this article's title. It places soil in its proper perspective - the soul of life. Our Creator made us from dust and the scripture tells us that to dust we will return. Now that's proof aplenty that soil commands the top rung when it comes to the ladder of life.

Award winning roses on show tables were not there simply by accident. The Rosarian applied many usable techniques to giving the roses a "good home." It is safe to say that soil amending played a definite part in the growing process. To paraphrase a famous English Rosarian/clergyman, Dean Reynolds Hole, writing in the 1860's, said: "it takes a lot of digging and dunging to produce good roses." That's certainly true even to this day. The soil must be pliable so as not to restrict root growth. It also must allow air and water to enter the root area and thus sustain plant life, and it must contain chemical elements which promote good growth.

As to the "dunging", this phase of soil activity takes on many forms. Manures have for years been at the top in fertilization. Many of the old-timers relied heavily on this form, especially that which comes from cattle. Then too, horse, sheep, and other animals provided waste for fertilization and still do. However, today's Rosarian relies on several other forms of organics. Composted vegetation, peat moss, ground bark, processed meals of various forms, mushroom compost, and other products have found their way into the Rosaria's feeding program. It is safe to say that organics play a most essential part in producing superior growth in plants of all species. Fortunately the market is now equipped with ready-mixed products that include several types of organic material. These mixes eliminate the need to apply them separately.

I would be remiss if I failed to mention chemical fertilizers and their part in providing good growth in plants - especially roses. The nation's food basket would be rather bare if it were not for chemical application to crops. Their importance is paramount. However, without the addition of supplemental organics to the feeding program in roses, the resultant growth would not enjoy its lushness. Organics are that important.

As we survey the importance of good soil, let us never refer to it as "dirt." Remember that it sustains all life and should enjoy prominence in our vocabulary. Ever since the day I tilled the coal infused soil of the depression era, I have revered soil. No one had to convince me of soil's importance. The hunger pangs of my stomach told me so. Dig and dung it with all diligence and it just may reward you with specimens on the head table of many rose shows.

## Rose Exhibiting by “Non-Exhibitors”

By Baxter Williams

Judging, it's probably because the thought of having an entry rejected would be a real embarrassment. Well, I have good news for you: Starting is easier than ever. Here are the elements.

Well-grown Roses. They are started by being fed, and watered, and trimmed, and kept pest free. Adequate nourishment is enhanced when the pH of the soil is in the 6.5-7.0 range, and when fertilizer additions include needed trace elements. It is probably time to invest in a soil test.

And if you have been using only natural fertilizers (manures, “meals”, composts, etc.), remember that they are “naturally” weak, compared to manufactured fertilizers, so they need to be applied **very** early in the first bloom cycle. And, just as an experiment, you might try using our Houston Rose Society Rose Fertilizer during this first bloom cycle – it is an “instant” product that can act in time to affect (size, color, stem and foliage) these first blooms.

Selection of Blooms. The judging of a rose show actually begins before the blooms are entered. It begins as you first look at the bloom-stems for the purpose of cutting them from the bushes. **You** make the judging call as to whether to cut them and take them to the show for entry – the judges only confirm your choices.

In all honesty, bloom selection is not all that difficult. Just cut long stems having good foliage and with large blooms on top. And then, holding them under water, re-cut them (so that they won't droop because of the air bubble sucked into the stems as they were cut off of the bushes).

Bloom Preparation. Bloom prep is a 2-stage process. The first stage has already been men-

tioned: re-cut the stems underwater, and then store them in the refrigerator at about 36 deg F. The second stage is a little more detailed.

Once put into vases at a rose show, it is time to tag the blooms. Hint: Valuable time is preserved when the tags are prepared the night before the show. Be careful to fill in all of the appropriate blanks on both halves (upper and lower) of the entry tags! Secondly, if necessary, bloom petals can be gently manipulated to arrange them into a more concentric pattern. Thirdly, gently wipe the leaflets with a soft cloth to give them a shiny look (Note: You must not use any additive to cause the shine).

A few “tools” come in handy in the prep area. Bypass pruning shears. Small grooming (fingernail) shears, to trim away any damaged leaflet edges. Tweezers, a small paint brush, for petal manipulation, a pencil, or two, a sharp pen-knife (or Exacto knife set), a square foot (or 2) of aluminum foil wrap, rubber bands, a recent edition of the American Rose Society “Handbook for Selecting Roses.”, and a copy of the Show Schedule, and a smidgeon of gutsy resolve.

C'mon; we can do this! Besides, the judges really do need something to do. Let's load 'em up. See you at the Show.



Gemini exhibited by Don & Paula Adlong  
(the opposite of a Non-Exhibitor!)

### *Things to do in April*

1. You should be completing your pruning and removing your winter protection if you have not yet done so. Watch the weather forecasts. Remember that your grafted roses will be more susceptible to freezing than your miniatures and own-root roses. You will need to watch your new basils and protect them from the wind or stake them up to prevent their breaking off.
2. You should have put down your initial feeding of the roses. Keep in mind that your roses may not be able to use the feed if the pH of your soil is too high or too low. A pH of 6.0 - 6.5 is ideal for roses. Your soil pH can be tested with a simple tester you insert into the ground.
3. You need to start your spraying program to prevent blackspot and powdery mildew. There are a variety of sprays available and you do not have to use highly toxic chemicals. If you have Earth-kind® roses or disease resistant roses you should give them a chance to perform as they were advertised and skip the spraying.
4. Watch the moisture levels in your soil. We had a good rain in the area, but are having lots of wind which can dry the soil out. Remember to water before fertilizing and after fertilizing.
5. This is a good time to add to your mulch to help hold the moisture in the soil and to keep weeds out. Tulsa residents can get free mulch at The City of Tulsa's Greenwaste site is located at 10401 East 56th Street North (one-half mile west of Highway 169 on 56th Street North), is open seven days a week, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. (excluding City holidays.)
6. Pick up a show schedule at the April meeting and start planning your entries for the May show.
7. Look at the information about the Shreveport Convention and Show. It is not a bad drive and you can visit the American Rose Center in addition to seeing a beautiful Rose Show. Remember your membership card will give you free admission into the center.
8. There are several opportunities for you to assist your society. Help will be needed next week for our participation at the Tulsa Garden Center's Spring Fest. The Rose Society will have a membership information booth and be selling roses as a fund raiser. Thursday afternoon will be setup

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 \$20 for individuals or families. Membership benefits include the newsletter, group purchases of roses and rose care products and support from an active organization.

#### **Your Club officers for 2010 are:**

Ed (Butch) Neumeier - President  
 Rose Rusnam - First Vice President - Programs  
 Debra Massey - Second Vice President - Membership  
 Dennis Voss - 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).

time. Thursday evening will be a special evening for members of the Tulsa Garden Center. The booth will be open 6 PM until 8 PM. It will be open Friday and Saturday from 9 AM Until 4 PM. If you can help follow the instruction on page 1 in the help wanted box.

9. Your help in setting up the show on May 28th is also requested. Setup will be from 1 until 4 PM so come by the Garden Center to help if you can. Help will also be needed on the 29th to make things happen both before and after the show!

Remember the Tulsa Rose Society exists as an educational program for you and the community. Any time you have a question or problem relating to the care and growing of your roses feel free to contact one of the consulting Rosarians listed above or in your member directory. You can also find many resources online or in a number of good books on rose growing and care.

Tulsa Rose Society  
1825 W Lincoln St  
Broken Arrow, OK 74012-8509

First Class Mail

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This space reserved for YOUR story.

Will it be here next month?