



John Davis, Kordesii

Rose Ramblings

<http://spokanerosesociety.com>

Newsletter of Spokane Rose Society

Affiliated with the American Rose Society

Vol. 73, Issue 4

May, 2020

2020 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

NO MAY MEETING – STAY HOME, STAY SAFE!

HOWEVER...(drum roll)...we are going to try a visit to Andrew Smith's rose business. We will call it an open house, so you can pick the time you want to be there. The Harvester Restaurant in Spangle is a great place to eat if you wish.

Andrew's business is located just outside Spangle, so go into the town of Spangle, and continue south on *Old Highway 195*. A short distance south on this road take a left on East Keevy Rd. and that should lead you to Andrew's business.

We need an RSVP so we have a head count. Please either email me at lynnschafer@gmail.com or call me at 509-286-3655 to let me know if you can attend.

THEN, provided Manito has the meeting room opened again, Kevin Brownlee has agreed to present his hybridizing program. He did this on the west side of the State, and it had rave reviews, so we want to take advantage of this opportunity. That will be our June program on June 24 if it happens. Stay tuned!

THIS MONTH

One more month of social distancing, most of us don't want to be seen in public because of needing so badly that long overdue haircut or trim or coloring. Some are having groceries delivered rather than risking being exposed to COVID-19, elective surgeries are just now being scheduled. It's a crazy world, is it not?

One thing they can't take away from us, at least for the present time, is our gardening, our roses and other things we grow. Now if we can just get a little warmer weather (you notice I didn't say warm, as I don't want *hot*) so things will take off, that will be nice.

The roses are looking very nice so far. That rain we had this past week should give them a real boost. I don't know why it is, but rainwater is so much better than water from the hose. It won't be long, maybe you have already seen, when we will be enjoying the first OGR blooms.

Last year when we were thinking of possible programs...when we were thinking we would actually be able to *have* programs...someone mentioned rose beads. This art goes **way** back to the days of friends of mine who have passed on, Sylvia McCracken and Sherm and Ruth Simpson. But apparently while we can't do anything else, there are people who are bringing it back. In the May/June 2020 issue of *American Rose* there is an article "Heritage of the Rose, Rose Petals to Rose Beads," by contributing editor Connie Hilker. If you have time on your hands and would like to try this, here are the instructions:

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You need to first collect your rose petals, selecting the most fragrant. With OGRs ready to bloom, they will generally provide this for you. A gallon of petals will make about 50 rose beads.

Fill the blender with petals, and slowly add enough water to make about the consistency of a milkshake. Add a teaspoon of citric acid to each blender full of petals, blending at high speed until as smooth as possible. Then put this mixture in a strainer and press out as much moisture as possible. This should leave you with a mixture that is damp but not drippy wet.

Using a level one-half teaspoon of this mixture, shape with your fingers and roll in the palm of your hand to form a sphere. And if the mixture is too wet, you can press it on a paper towel to absorb more of the moisture.

Push a T-pin through the center of the ball and stick this into a piece of foam to hold it in place as it dries. This also keeps the hole in the center of the rose bead. These beads will shrink dramatically as they dry. Place them out of sunlight indoors and wait until they are dry and hard, usually within a week.

To use these beads, Ms. Hilker recommends combining them on your necklace with other materials, such as three sizes of faceted black beads.

The one thing I recall from back in the 1970s is the slurry was heated in a cast iron skillet to darken the petals. The necklaces I have are black rose petal beads, and yes, they still have fragrance. You might want to vary your trials if you have a cast iron skillet and see how this works. So many things we remember when we were growing up are lost because "newer is better," and things we learned as novice rosarians have also been lost – some good, some not recommended. This might be something to bring back while we await the opening of our state and nation.



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Anne Franks



A Note From Annie...

There is nothing shy about Spring. It usually explodes on the scene with scents, sights and sounds. But I don't have to tell any of you that this year will go down in history as being a different Spring. Despite the virus, we have had the abundant pleasure and simple joy of working at home, of working in our yards and in our roses. Sniping new shoots going in the wrong direction, fertilizing, planting new roses, replacing roses that didn't make it and so on.

As you know, I subscribe to the American Rose magazine as I hope most of you do. There is always so much useful information to guide us as our roses come blooming back into life in the spring. This month in President Bob Martin's **First Word**, he talked about the virus. Not just the Covid-19, but he mentioned other viruses that should concern us as Rosarians. He mentioned Rose Rosette Disease, a fatal disease of roses, Apple mosaic virus and Prunus necrotic ring spot. These are all caused by a virus.

President Martin mentions that the key to dealing with a virus, whether one that afflicts humans or roses, is prevention. True we can't "social-distance" our roses but we can be watchful and alert as to their health and care. He likes to refer to Consulting Rosarians as rose evangelists. Since evangelists spread the **gospel**, the **gospel** is the **good news** and the **good news is that anyone can grow roses**.

As a Consulting Rosarian myself, I believe that the **good news** is that we can and will endure this virus, the one that has threatened our own health, and any that might threaten the health of our roses. Now that spring has come blooming back into our lives, let's be watchful over our roses, attend to them, care for ourselves and remember that there will always be peace and beauty in our rose gardens. See you soon.





Rose Logic

Lynn Schafer
Master Rosarian

In between rains, there are many things we can be doing. I went back through my rose beds and did some more pruning where the cane either didn't start new growth or just wasn't one I wanted to keep. I haven't had a problem with blind shoots I see referenced in other publications, but when you see new growth that has no bud developing on the tip, you can cut it back to a five-leaflet leaf and that should take care of the problem.

Organic fertilizer can be applied at any time, and chemical fertilizer has been applied to my roses at about 1/3 cup per bush sprinkled around the drip line and scratched in. This rain certainly will have moved it down in the soil more so the roses can get the full benefit. I like the combination of the two types of fertilizers as the chemical fertilizer gets them off to a great start, and the organics keep them happy.

This is the time of year to use the fungicides to keep blackspot at bay and eliminate any powdery mildew. I have said it before and will repeat, we are blessed in our area that we have a lower humidity so don't suffer the fungus diseases that are more apparent elsewhere. There are organic fungicides you can use if you try to avoid chemicals, but blackspot can be very difficult to manage. Better prevent than treat after the fact.

Of course, there is always room for more roses if you wish, or to replace some you no longer want. Carol's Rosarium Garden Center is open for business, and there is plenty of room there to practice social distancing and find just the rose... or clematis...or garden features you may want. I really love mixing the clematis in among the roses either on a fence or a wall where they can climb. I have basically wrapped my little greenhouse with clematis, and my blue bell clematis is in full bloom right now. That is the earliest one, but others are growing well and will soon be blooming. Clematis come in all shapes and sizes, so you can find one that goes with nearly every rose. I have a Jackmanii clematis that twines its way up through 'Darlow's Enigma,' which is a small white bloom, usually in sprays, that grows on a beast of a rose bush. I cut it back severely this spring, so I hope it will forgive me, but the prickles are hooked, and they draw blood very easily. Still, when I see that dark purple clematis growing up through the white roses, nearly all is forgiven!



ROSE PHOTOGRAPHY FOR EVERYONE

Bill Kozemchak, editor for the Philadelphia Rose Society and no stranger to beautiful photography of roses, had an article in his newsletter that was picked up by Rich Baer, photographer extraordinaire, and this is another way you can enjoy the time until we are free to...be free again.

You don't need an expensive camera to have success. A cell phone, or point and shoot camera can produce great images and win in photo contests. Try to take advantage of any opportunities to get photos at rose shows, garden visits and rose conventions. When contest deadlines approach, it is good to have a nice selection of photos to choose from. If you don't have your camera, use your cell phone!

Take the camera out to the garden, especially when it is at peak bloom. If you go on garden tours or visits, take lots of shots and take different angles of blooms and garden views. Take multiples shots of each angle, especially if not using a tripod. You can later delete the shots that are not in focus or have parts of the bloom cropped off. Many times, I thought I had a good shot on the camera and then put it on the larger computer screen, and it wasn't as in focus as I had thought.

Make sure you have a large enough memory card or multiple cards so you don't run out of space. If you have a replaceable battery, carry a spare and be sure it is fully charged. If you're on a trip remember to take the charger. Be sure the date imprinting is turned off if you're thinking of entering the photos in a contest. Also don't put the name of the rose on the photo. When shooting exhibition, open bloom, or spray photos, you want to fill the frame as much as possible without cropping off parts of the petals. If you want your photo to do well, the bloom, spray, or arrangement has to be very good quality, just as in a rose show. An exhibition bloom with no center or form will not win. An open bloom with old dark stamens will not win. An arrangement that got an honorable mention will probably not win in a photo contest. If you are taking bloom photos in your own garden, groom the rose before you take the photo. A little petaloid sticking out in the middle of a nice open bloom can be very distracting and while it may be possible to eliminate it with a photo

editing program, it is time consuming compared to plucking it off in a few seconds. Moving a petal or two on a nice exhibition bloom to give it better form or a nice circular outline can also make a difference in the photo quality. If you're in friend's garden, you should probably ask if it's OK to do this. I'm sure it would be frowned upon in a public garden.

Try to remove distractions in the background. Debris on the ground, other blooms or buds, black spotted leaves, name tags, or anything brightly colored will stick out and draw the judge's attention from the bloom or spray that is supposed to be the focus of your photo.

Not being an arranger, taking photos of 1st and 2nd place arrangements is a very good way of assuring yourself that the design is a good one. I was told doing just blue-ribbon designs was a good tip, but I have had many 2nd place designs win in photo contests because many shows usually have several excellent arrangers entering the same class and the quality difference between first and second can be very minimal in many cases. When taking a photo of an arrangement, always take one of the entry tag so that you have the name of the arranger, so you can credit them in your photo. This will be a requirement for the new ARS Photography certificates, the arranger must be listed on your entry tag. Just as you want to be credited for your photo, the person who made this beautiful design wants credit for their creativity. It will also help you to identify the rose if you're asked about it. When taking a photo of an arrangement, always take the photo directly in front of it, not off to the side, because that is how the judges view them. They should also be taken at the normal viewing height, don't kneel or squat down to take the shot.

When taking photos of a rose at a show or in a garden, take a photo of the entry tag or garden label, it is much quicker and easier than writing the name down or typing it in your phone. Our memory is not always as good as we think it is, and we may not get to editing them right away. In a garden photo, the roses should be the focus of the shot. A shot of a garden of other flowers with a rose or two is not a rose garden photo. While most schedules will allow statues or structures, they should not be the focal point. It may be a photo of a rose garden with a statue, but should not be a photo of a statue in a rose garden. In a garden photo, I try to find a view that provides a sense of motion that makes my eyes move around the photo, rather than just focus on one spot in the photo. Winter and snow photos offer a different perspective of gardens, so try to get some photos at that time of year as something different for the judges to see. As with other garden photos, the rose or roses should be the focus of your photos. My winter photo of "Ripe Scabrosa Hips" won the 2014 Master Class Garden/Abstract Class. I didn't plan on taking it, but roaming around the snow-covered garden with the camera, it was there begging to be photographed. When I looked through the photos on the computer later, I knew I had some really good things to enter. Many times, the spray classes are not entered as much as bloom classes, so you may have a better chance of winning if you make sure to take good photos of sprays during the year.

Some basic editing can be done on your cell phone, but there are free apps available for more involved editing. Your camera may have come with an editing program. My Samsung point and shoot came with a very good editing program to get me started. I then moved to Photoshop Elements, which I still use with very good results. While many Photoshop filters can produce very interesting photos, many of these are quick one click changes that don't impress the judges in the abstract classes. Taking shots of parts of the rose or different perspectives require a little more thought and planning and usually do better in the competitions.

When editing photos for different contests, I have found editing the photo to a 5x7 size first is very time saving. This size is used in most local and many district photo contests. Cropping from 5x7 to 8x10 removes some from the sides in landscape or top and bottom in portrait orientation. For most photos, this is fine and nothing important is lost. For the ARS Photo Contest or others where the aspect ratio is not set, the bloom or spray photos can be cropped closer to the roses, so there is not as much empty space. This way you don't have to do all the editing on each different size photo, it is done once and just cropped to the different sizes. There are some cases where you may not be able to do this and have to crop then reedit the photo so it is pleasing for you, but in most cases, it has worked well for me.

Just as with a rose show, read the schedule! The schedule will tell you how to send the photos if it is a digital contest, and how to label each photo. There may also be restrictions on file size, file type, resolution, aspect ratio, the photo not winning in previous contests and number of entries per class. In a show for printed photos, you need to know aspect ratios allowed, matted or not, colors allowed for matting, backer board or not, how to attach the entry tag if required, type of paper allowed, when entries are accepted and which classes if any allow black and white or sepia prints. Study the winning photos of past contests to see what does well. Also look to see the differences in winning photos in the Novice, Regular Classes and the Master Class in the ARS Photo Contest. When I started entering, most of my photos were not as good as the winning Novice Class photos. Now with practicing and some mentoring from Tom Mayhew, I am winning in the Master Classes, over just a period of 7 or 8 years.

If you can find a mentor to help you improve your knowledge and techniques, it can speed up the process of becoming a really good photographer. Never be afraid to ask others about your photos and don't be offended when someone tells how you can improve. It's like showing roses, you may think you know what to do, but others that have more success, obviously know better. To improve, you need to be willing to change. Also remember what you enjoy for your own use, may not be the same as what the judges are looking for in a photo contest. Enjoy and share photos you do in your style, but don't expect them to win just because you really love them. Talk to the judges at the rose show if there are photo classes and ask them why the winners were better photos and what they liked about them. I have learned quite a bit by doing this, some things I had never really thought about were brought to my attention. Practice editing your photos during the year and not just a few days before the deadline. If you're having problems with something, call a friend to ask if they can help, get a book on the subject or check online. There is a lot of information available on the web. You can't win if you

don't enter! You may not be successful right away, but as with growing or showing roses, photographing them well is a learning process. It is very rewarding as you go through this process and you see the progress you make.

(Editors' Note: You probably all know that this is one of my joys in the garden and it has been very rewarding to me over the years. I have entered the national contest for 30 straight years and in 13 of those contests my roses have been awarded the honor of being best in the show, including this year with the rose Neptune. This makes a three peat because my rose Sparrieshoop won best in show last year, and my rose Hannah Gordon was best in show two years ago. Hopefully my garden will produce some exceptionally beautiful roses this year as well. Yours will probably do the same, so get out there and take some beautiful pictures of them to enjoy when the no blooms are present in the garden. Rich Baer)



And if you are interested, and if you enjoy photography of your roses, there are contests at both the District and National American Rose levels. The contest for the American Rose Society can be found at <https://www.rose.org/photography>. Drop to the bottom of that page to see "Digital Photo Contest. The deadline is November 5, 2020.

For the Pacific Northwest District of the American Rose Society contest, you need to have your entries in by midnight on September 15, 2020, so Harlow and his crew have time to judge an amazing number of great photos. His email is threegkids@charter.net.

Contest Rules

1. You can enter up to **eight** images per Class.
2. It is **preferable (and strongly encouraged)** that your photos be electronically submitted in **JPEG** image format. Alternatively, you can mail prints to Harlow Young, 3218 W. 2nd Ave., Kennewick, WA 99336. Prints will be scanned and saved into an appropriate format for presentation to the judges and returned, if requested.
3. The photos in Classes 1-6 and 8-11 may be lightly but not overly enhanced by the use of any graphic program such as *Photoshop*, *Elements* or *Photo Impact*, etc. for the purpose of cropping, rotation, lightening or darkening, minor cleanup corrections due to camera sensor "dirt" or sharpening of the image **only**. The exception may be for entries in Class 7 which permits significant editing when creating a desired abstract or impressionistic effect.
4. The photos for this contest must be taken by a member of the ARS residing in the PNW District or who is a member of a local rose society within the Pacific Northwest District of the American Rose Society.
5. Photos that have won "Class" or "Best in Show" awards in previous PNW District ARS contests are not eligible to be entered.
6. Rose entries in Classes 1 through 7 must be identified by their ARS exhibition names. Grooming of the rose(s) at the time they are photographed is encouraged, and artificial backgrounds may be used. The roses do not need to be photographed in the garden or on the bush.
7. When submitted, name each image to reflect its contest Class and ARS exhibition name when required. For example: If you are entering a photo of 'Gemini' in the Amateur division in Class 1, you must add an 'AC' to the entry code, as: "AC#1Gemini" (this signifies "Amateur Class #1[Rose name]..."). Photos entered in the Master division must add an 'MC' to their entry code, as given here: "MC#1, Gemini" (Master Class #1...).
8. E-mail your entries to Harlow Young at: threegkids@charter.net. It is important that you include your name, address, phone number, e-mail and local rose society (if applicable) in the message. Also include any additional information that might be appropriate for the entry. If you're mailing prints, mail without folding in a padded, oversized envelope to: Harlow Young, 3218 W. 2nd Avenue, Kennewick, WA 99336.
9. **Entries must be received by midnight, September 15, 2020. Entries received after that date will not be included in the judging.**
10. The Chair of the committee reserves the right to disqualify any entry that does not conform to these rules and guidelines.

2020 PNWD Photo Contest Classes

1. **One bloom** - exhibition staged, of hybrid tea, grandiflora, miniature, miniflora and floribunda classifications of roses.
NOTE: Roses designated by ARS standards as "single" in its petal count whose exhibition form is best in the open form must be entered in Class 3.
2. **One spray** (two or more blooms on a single stem) of **hybrid tea, grandiflora, floribunda, miniature, or miniflora classifications.**
3. **One fully open bloom** - any variety, stamens must show.
4. **One bloom or spray of a shrub (other than HT, GR, Fl, Min, Min Fl, POL, OGR, species or climber)**, all on one stem only.
5. **One bloom or spray** - of an **OGR, species, polyantha or climber.**
6. **A collection of Multiple Blooms** - a minimum of three blooms of one or more varieties, at maximum stage of beauty for the variety(ies), arranged and photographed.
7. **Abstract or Impressionism** - A non-objective design, form, or content of which evokes a sense of originality or a different way of imagining or viewing the subject. *For this class only, you may creatively enhance your photo by coloring, cropping, painting, shadowing, blurring, layering, merging, etc.*
8. **A photo of any rose garden.** Photos in this class should show the use of roses within the structure of the garden. Roses should dominate the photo and some layout of the garden should be evident. Roses need not be identified by name.
9. **Macro Photography** - An **EXTREME CLOSE-UP** photo of any part of the rose or rose plant or any portion thereof. Color, black and white, sepia or combinations of these are permitted in this class.
10. **Director's Choice Class** - A photo of an insect (and, for this category, including spiders) on a rose, rose plant, or any portion thereof. The photo need not identify the name of the rose. The photos will be judged on clarity and uniqueness of photo. Preferably, these should be photos not previously entered in the PNW District contest.
11. **Everything Else** - Any rose photo that doesn't fit into any of classes 1 through 10. It could be an image of roses with people, animals, etc., or of a rose society activity. It could be an arrangement, or one or more rose bushes that constitute a single unit. You should name the rose(s) in the photo if appropriate. If the photo includes a local rose society activity or people, identify the society, the activity, and the people in the photo (unless it's a crowd scene). Since the winning photo may be published on the District website or other District publication, it's a good idea to have the permission of anyone who could be recognized in the picture.

If there are questions regarding any part of the contest rules, please contact Harlow Young: threegkids@charter.net

And if you want to enter either of these contests or just want to take great rose photos, here is a website that may help you improve your skills: https://www.thesmellofroses.com/revolutionize-mobile-flower-photography-simple-tips/#disqus_thread.

