

# KATnips



Publication of the Tenarky District

Spring 2020

Volume 26, Issue 1

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## ARS Links

Tenarky  
 District Fall  
 Convention  
 &  
 Rose Show

September 26-27  
 Belmont  
 University  
 hosted by  
 Nashville Rose  
 Society

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 of the  
 American Rose Society  
[www.tenarky.org](http://www.tenarky.org)

## NRS + Cheekwood Featured in *American Rose Magazine!* *By Mary Ann Hext*



After so many gray and rainy days in March and being confined to our small farm due to the Covid-19 situation, it was a nice surprise to find the March/April issue of the *American Rose* in our mailbox one day last week. An even nicer surprise was to find it contained an article featuring one of our Tenarky District rose societies and to see that it was written by our Tenarky District secretary, Jill Garabedian, a member of the Nashville Rose Society.

Since 1953, the Nashville Rose Society has had a strong presence in the Tenarky District. Today under the leadership of co-presidents Ron Daniels and John Wendler, NRS continues to be involved in the community as evidenced by this article outlining their partnership with Cheekwood. NRS was instrumental several years ago in the development of the Music City Rose Garden in downtown Nashville which was an attraction for those visiting the area. After the city decided to remove the garden, NRS found other community projects in which to share their knowledge and love of growing roses. In addition to the rose study garden at Cheekwood, NRS members have helped with the rose gardens at Belmont University and the Hermitage.

With a presence on social media, at the Nashville Lawn and Garden Show, the Annual Herb Society Sale, and other events at local nurseries, NRS membership continues to grow. Meetings include time to discuss what each rose grower should be doing at the present in their rose garden, along with a variety of interesting programs, cut or potted roses being shared with new members, and, of course, refreshments. NRS meetings are just great fun to attend and to learn more about our rose hobby!

**TENARKY DISTRICT**  
By JILL GARABEDIAN

**The Nashville Rose Society + Cheekwood Estate  
 and Botanical Gardens: A Partnership in Education**

AFTER MANY YEARS of Nashville Rose Society meetings being held at Cheekwood, Ron Daniels, current Co-President of the NRS, wondered why there was not a rose garden on the grounds. Since one of the Nashville Rose Society priorities is rose education and a core value at Cheekwood is botanical education, it seemed a natural fit to have a study garden on site.

In February, 2015, Ron, the late Dr. Sam Jones, who, at the time was the Tenarky District Director, and Todd Breyer, Landscape Architect at Cheekwood, with the support of the Nashville Rose Society, had an initial meeting with Cheekwood to propose not only a beautiful rose garden but a "hands on" rose garden that could be used to teach new NRS members and the general public about caring for and planting roses. By June of 2015, with an agreement in place that Cheekwood would donate a site and the NRS would build and maintain it, the rose garden began to take form, utilizing raised beds and a drip system. A majority of the materials were donated by local vendors and labor provided by NRS members. In August of 2015, the first 42 rose bushes were planted and the site was named the Rose Study Garden. In the Spring of 2016, 15 more rosebushes were added.

How the Rose Study Garden is Used  
 With the garden in place, in order to maximize educational opportunities, the NRS changed their meet-

ing time from evening to afternoon so the last part of each meeting is utilized for in garden demonstrations. In early Spring, planting and pruning for the season, during the Summer, deadheading, feeding and spraying and in the Fall, how to winterize roses. These demonstrations have proven to be helpful to new members and have been effective in helping to grow NRS membership by offering and encouraging first hand experience for members to take and use in their own gardens. This also enables veteran members to offer mentorship to newer members, which has proven to be invaluable. Overall, the Rose Study Garden has provided a sense of community within the NRS membership, everyone has done their part, whether making labels, helping with demonstrations, planting or clean up, all have pitched in and have a sense of ownership in the garden.

NRS members have "work days" to maintain the Rose Study Garden to the high standards set by Cheekwood Botanical Gardens. The NRS has been deeply committed to the success of the Rose Study Garden and has volunteered many hours to keep the garden in excellent shape. Cheekwood has many gardens on site and the NRS has been awarded the 2018 and 2019 Century Award for accumulating the most volunteer hours of any garden club or plant society.

The NRS sponsors workshops for Cheekwood visitor



## District Director's Message by Mary Ann Hext, Interim Director

As I write this the first day of April, it is hard to believe what our new year has brought us: a world-wide pandemic that has affected all of us in many ways, a very wet 2020 with over 20 inches of rain so far where I live, devastating storms and tornados not very many miles away; and yet the daffodils bloomed, then the forsythia bloomed and now most of us have finished or are in the process of pruning our roses with the hope of some normalcy returning to our lives soon.

As you know, I am serving as our Tenarky District Interim Director while we hope for someone to step forward to become our next district director. After the resignation of Richard Anthony in late December, it became necessary for us to have an interim director until we could hold an election which was to be in February. Although we received five nominations, none of the nominees accepted. After informing the ARS president of this and learning that we were required to have a director or be dissolved, I agreed to continue serving to give us more time for someone to agree to take this position either for the remainder of the term with me being vice director or a person agreeing to be my vice director to complete the term with the hope of that person becoming the director at the next election. The next ARS election is July 2021 and nominations for ARS vice president and district and regional directors are to be made in the fall of 2020. In late February, I sent another message to each society president to forward to local members making the same request for someone to consider this offer and accept by May 15 so that person might attend the ARS Board meeting in Colorado Springs (which has now been postponed until August). I also hoped that this issue would be discussed at the March local society meetings and someone might indicate an interest.

To date, I have heard from no one. ARS President Bob Martin, ARS Vice President Diane Sommers, and I are very hopeful that we will have a Tenarky District Director soon. If not, then according to the ARS bylaws without a district director, the Tenarky District will be dissolved. I have agreed to continue to serve until the Tenarky District Fall Convention and Rose Show hosted by the Nashville Rose Society where we will be having our regular business meeting. If we have no one who will agree to be director for the 2021-23 term, then we will officially dissolve our district. I have requested that our local societies have some input into where they would like to be placed and we will discuss this at that time. I will submit our requested plan to the ARS Strategic Planning Committee to be voted on at the Board of Directors meeting in the fall.

Our district has existed for many years. We had one local rose society in 1926 and another in 1932. No one has been able to tell me exactly when the Tenarky District was actually formed, but the first known director I could verify was Harry Burgess from 1958-1961. We have had many wonderful directors, one ARS president, hosted at least five national conventions, and had one member receive the ARS Gold Honor Medal, one receive the ARS Klima Award, and four members receive the ARS Glenda Whitaker Membership Award. You can read more about the history of our Tenarky District on our website at [www.tenarky.org](http://www.tenarky.org). It will be very sad if we have to dissolve; but, we cannot continue without a district director. PLEASE consider accepting this position so that we may continue sharing our love for our rose hobby with the many many friends we have made across the Tenarky district and the rest of the rose world. Even if you are just slightly thinking about it, please call me!

Bowling Green Rose Society is hoping that we will be able to have our spring rose show on May 30; otherwise, we may postpone it until the fall. The Nashville Rose Society is hosting the fall district convention and show at Belmont University on September 25-26. Please plan to attend as it will be a beautiful show in an awesome location and we want everyone to bring roses to exhibit, and/or just come to visit and make new rose friends! Also, be sure to attend our very important business meeting. We will be having our Awards Banquet and special program following the dinner on Saturday evening. The Louisville Rose Society will be having their fall rose show on October 3, so put that date on your rose calendar also. Hopefully, we will have some relief from Covid-19 virus in the coming months and we can hold our fall rose shows.

In the meantime, enjoy spending time in your own rose gardens and share your roses via social media. You can email me photos of your roses to post on our Tenarky Facebook page. And again, please consider becoming the next Tenarky District Director!!





## Consulting Rosarian Corner *by Kathy Brennan, Tennessee Rose Society, ARS Master Rosarian, District Consulting Rosarian Chair*



### Our CR School and Taking the Test

Hello everyone, I am so proud to announce Tenarky District has nine (9) new CR's! Oh wait, that statement did not happen because of the Covid-19 curse, we had to postpone our CR School until further notice. So, as of now, we do have nine (9) CR Candidates waiting to attend our school and take the CR test. Nine is the most we can remember ever having to take the test.

Information from our National CR Chairmen, Dave and Gerry Mahoney, every CR due to audit and update this year, 2020, has been extended to next year 2021 without any penalty. Also, ARS Headquarters is doing a comprehensive update on the ARS CR list. Evidently, this had not been done for a long time and badly needed to be done. I will keep you posted on any new information.

I must give a thankful shout out to Sarah Johnson and members of the Cookeville Rose Society for helping me secure and set up for the CR School that we had to postpone. Thank you so much!

Isn't Springtime the most exciting time of the year! Our gardens are waking up and starting to bloom. By now we have pruned and fertilized our roses thanks to the time we have had at home during the quarantine. (Got to find happiness wherever we can).

I am thankful to our nurseries that allow us to call, order, pay and when we drive up; they put the plants in the trunk of the car. I am thankful for all our doctors, nurses and health care workers, who give their time to heal the sick. I also pray for the parents who must become school teachers to their children while also working their jobs from home, and all the other essential workers helping us to be safe.

I am thankful I have my garden to escape to which gives me hope for a better tomorrow and happiness full of God's beauty in this world. I am thankful for my rosarians friends. Stay safe, be careful.

### **GARDENING TIP**

For spraying weeds, cut diagonally across the top then remove the bottom of a milk jug. Slip over weed to be sprayed.

After spraying, wait a few moments and carefully lift the sleeve, not to drop on surrounding plants. Use gallon size for large weeds and half gallon size for smaller weeds.





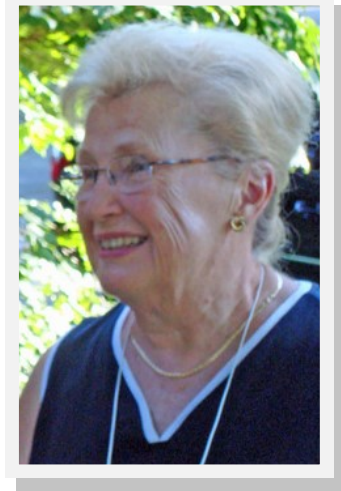


## Articles of Interest

### **In Memory of Rhonda Spruiell**

**August 10, 1936—December 13, 2019**

- President of Tennessee Rose Society 1995 (held every office)
- ARS Master Rosarian
- ARS Bronze Honor Medal 2000
- ARS Silver Honor Medal 2004 (with her husband, Joe)
- ARS Outstanding Horticulture Judge 2004
- Winning exhibitor at local, district and national rose shows
- A wonderful rose mentor to all



### **In Memory of William "Bill" McMahon**

**December 8, 1926 -February 18, 2020**

- Age 92
- Survived by Dorothy McMahon "Dot"
- Past BGRS president
- Past Tenarky District Director
- Recipient of ARS Bronze and Silver Honor Medals
- Editor of "KATnips" Tenarky District newsletter for several years in the 80s
- Originator (with Dot) of "Horizon Roses" now in its 36th year and published by ARS President Bob Martin
- Recipient of ARS Presidential Citation from Peter Haring
- Avid rose show exhibitor winning many queens and a "bunch" of the District McFarland trophies
- Retired professor at Western Kentucky University
- A fine poet

A short poem sent to me recently by his wife about the two worlds he loved best:

*Teaching is a lovely, lonely work  
 Meant only for those  
 Who see the rose  
 Upon the table.*

Photo taken by Cheryl Meredith on June 3, 1969 at Bowling Green Rose Society Rose Show where Bill won Duchess and Horticulture Sweepstakes. Photo from November 2010 "Rosebuds 50th Anniversary Edition", Mary Ann Hext, editor.



## Why I Grow Roses! by Joanna Deck, Memphis & Dixie Rose Society

We all enjoy growing our roses for a variety of reasons. I have been thinking about some of my reasons and am sharing them now with you.

Growing roses helps to keep me in shape. Pruning definitely makes me use some muscle groups that have not been used during the winter months. I have to bend over to look at the structure of the rose, and I sometimes have to bend and stretch into some strange positions to make the right cut. Then I have to do more bending over to pick up the pruned pieces.



This year I had twelve yards of compost hauled in to put on the roses. Before I applied it, I removed the pine straw mulch and put down my organics - Mills Magic Mix, alfalfa meal, ammonium sulfate and Beatty's slow release fertilizer - and scratched them in. I got a lot of walking done with that. Before putting the pine straw back on, I put two inches of compost over all the beds. That involved shoveling it into a large wheelbarrow, hauling it across the yard three or four times for each of the thirteen beds, and shoveling it out of the wheelbarrow. Then I put the pine straw back. That was a good upper body workout for several days. I hope to see some really good growth on the roses this year as a result.

I had lots of compost left so I mixed it into the soil in my four veggie beds and then shoveled some on the eight beds of miscellaneous flowers. And I still have several yards left. Obviously I miscalculated how much I would need!

Growing roses helps me to stay mentally organized and focused. I always make sure I have enough fertilizers, fungicide, and insecticide for the upcoming year. I purchase and order everything I will need in January and February. Applying those things keeps me organized during the growing season. I usually feed every two weeks and spray fungicide every two weeks. Doing one thing on one week and the other the next week keeps me from having to do both on the same week. It also allows me to take a look at the roses at least once a week, although I usually walk through them more than that. Researching new products helps to keep me mentally engaged.

The beauty of the blooms is very enjoyable for me and for those that I give them to. Before I retired, I took vases of blooms to my fellow workers during every bloom cycle. Now I take them around to the neighbors. I plan to do even more of that this year. I have daylilies, irises, lilies, clematis, and other flowers, but roses are my favorite because they are the only flowers that bloom all summer and into the fall.

One of the most enjoyable things about this hobby is meeting other rose nuts. I have met a lot of really nice people by attending our Tenarky District shows. If you have not gone to a District show, you should! You will not only see beautiful roses, but also beautiful rose arrangements since we have some of the best arrangers in the country!

I hope someone reading this will be encouraged to step up and become our next District Director so that our district will remain intact. I know some of you think I would be a good choice for that position. Believe me, I did consider it. And I would have volunteered if I did not live so far away from the rest of the district. It would be difficult for me to organize the winter workshops, the most important job for the director, from this distance. Please consider volunteering to do this very important job. Regardless of what happens, we should continue to grow and enjoy our favorite flower, the rose.

*Editor's Note: Joanna has been growing roses since 1988 and started showing in 1998 after winning Novice Queen in 1997. She is a top Tenarky District exhibitor and has won numerous national, district, and local trophies and awards. Joanna is a member of Memphis & Dixie Rose Society and the current Tenarky Horticulture Chair.*



## Long White Hair and Flowing Beard....

### Remembering Whit Wells by *Mary Bates, Tennessee Rose Society*

I first spotted him at the TENARKY District Convention and Rose Show in Chattanooga as he ambled by with four tiny vases with perfect little roses. After carefully placing each of them on the table to be judged, he would return for more. After he had made seven or eight trips to the show table, (He only entered 30) I noticed these tiny jewels did not resemble anything that I had ever seen. They were bright and beautiful with the most unusual coloring for a rose. I remarked about how pretty they were and inquired about their names.

"Oh Honey! These don't have names. These are just seedlings. The Seedling Class is the only class I ever enter. You see I'm an old hybridizer and that's just what I like to do."

I noticed his name tag and immediately recognized his name. Although I didn't own any miniature or miniflora roses, I had read about him and heard his name mentioned by the members of our local society.

Later at the Awards Dinner, I would once again see him as he was presented the Whit Wells Award by the TENARKY District President. The award was a large plaque with an engraving of Whit with his long flowing white hair and beard. The Whit Wells District trophy requires five different mini-floras at exhibition stage. The trophy was proposed at the 2007 TENARKY District Winter Workshop as a means to honor one of the miniflora hybridizers in the US today.

This award would be given to the winner of TENARKY District Miniflora Division. Each winner would have their name engraved on the plaque and then the award would be passed to the next district show.

The TENARKY President described Whit by saying, "You can line up 15 red miniature roses that all look the same to me, and Whit can tell you every name and who their parents are."

Whit just smiled and replied, "Well, they are my children and that's just what I like to do."

Cindy Garrett was very happy to win the Whit Wells trophy at the Chattanooga show. It was the one trophy she wanted more than any other in the show. She used her best roses in the entry. Her roses were 'Ashton', 'Foolish Pleasure', 'Conundrum', 'Tiffany Lynn', and 'Butter Cream'.

When asked about Whit Wells, Jeff Garrett replied, "We first met Whit several years ago when the Jackson Rose Society hosted the Winter Workshop. If not for all of Whit's hard work, I seriously doubt the Winter Workshop would have ever come to be, let alone last for all these many years. He is one who always furnished pork tenderloin and ribs for the Friday evening reception and let me tell you that was some good eating! Whit also furnished lots of rooted roses that were auctioned at the workshop to provide funding for the event."

Upon returning home, I called Whit to find out more about this fascinating man with the kind demeanor and distinctive appearance. Whit told me that he had been raising roses for forty years and had been hybridizing for over 30 years.

"It takes a lot of time," he said, "but that's just what I like to do."

Whit explained to me that he plants 18,000-20,000 seedlings per year and gets about 40% germination. He pots them up in six inch pots and then puts them in his green house. After the second or third bloom cycle, he will decide what to keep. Then he plants them in the field. Sometimes there are only 10 or so good roses for the year.



**Evelyn and Jimmy Moser from the Memphis Rose Society with Whit at the 2008 Tenarky Winter Workshop in Bowling Green**

*(continued p. 7)*





## Remembering Whit Wells (continued from p. 6)

"It'll keep you busy with all your other work you have to do but you get out what you put in," Whit said.

Although knee surgery has slowed him down a bit, Whit must be working hard because in the conversation he mentioned that he has 3000-4000 unnamed roses in the field.

"Recently I've named one 'Deford Bailey' for the Grand Old Opry Hall of Fame. Deford used to play harp for the Grand Old Opry years ago and they wanted to remember him. They plan to plant the rose in their rose garden. I have several good ones they are going to be using including 'Tennessee Waltz', 'Rocky Top' (a bright orange), 'Elvis' and 'Barbara Mandrell'. I really like 'Memphis Music', he said. "It is a deep red with yellow strips that turns to orange."

When I asked him about any special new roses for the future, He said, "Keep an eye out for 'Shameless'. I found her in the field the other day. I think that one will be a really good one. I'm a little slow with that paper work, but I've got the roses."

So, with that comment I said goodbye to Whit and pondered where I could add some of these beautiful minifloras to our garden.

We owe a lot to the hybridizers of our industry. They are the work horses that make all of us and our gardens look good. We owe a special tribute to them.

*Editor's Note: This article originally appeared in the December 2007 issue of the "Rose Leaf", the newsletter of the Nashville Rose Society. Mary is a member of the Tennessee Rose Society, ARS Consulting Rosarian, ARS Horticulture Judge, and a previous editor of KATnips.*

*Verlie Whitson 'Whit' Wells died April 1, 2017, at 86 years of age. Many rosarians across our district and the country have at least one of his roses in our gardens.*



**ARS President Jolene Adams honors Whit Wells for his work as a hybridizer and the many roses he has given us to enjoy at the 2015 ARS Spring National and Miniature National Convention and Rose Show in Columbus, Ohio, June 11-14, 2015.**



**2008 Nashville Tenarky Fall District Convention and Rose Show hosted by Nashville Rose Society**



**2007 Tenarky Winter Workshop In Bowling Green**



**2015 ARS Spring National and Miniature National Convention and Rose Show in Columbus, Ohio.**



## Tenarky Local Society News—Thanks to those who sent news!

### Nashville Rose Society by Marty Reich, Master Rosarian

Nashville had a lovely Christmas party at Belmont University. Several awards for service were given out, but the big award of the night was the presentation of the ARS Bronze Medal to John Wendler by President Ron Daniels (*photo right*). John has only been a member for a few years, but has become an invaluable one in so many ways. Congratulations, John!

Jason Reeves, horticulturist at UT and the curator of the UT garden at Jackson, spoke to us in November. He gave great tips and growing techniques for many plants. This was a wonderful program. Also, in November, Ron Daniels held another workshop at Cheekwood. This time, attendees were allowed to gather bouquets from our Study Garden. Everyone was delighted to get such beautiful roses.

This spring we had an OGR/antique roses sale whereby we pre-ordered roses from Petals from the Past Nursery in Alabama. The owner, Jason Powell, brought the roses to our March meeting and gave an interesting program about OGRs.

Gary Spencer is just finishing taking orders for our Vendor Night sale for rose supplies. We have also had a rose sale going on and have pre-sold over 175 potted roses. We are looking forward to spring and hoping for the end to the virus-caused restrictions so we can continue with great programs and rose growing.

Ron Daniels will be featured on an upcoming [Rose Chat Podcast](#) discussing starting up your roses in the spring. He also recorded another one about restoring OGR gardens in Middle Tennessee at Bell Air Mansion, Belmont University, and The Hermitage. NRS member Jill Garabedian wrote an article which appeared in the spring issue of *American Rose* about the rose study garden at Cheekwood and how NRS is an important asset to them.



### Tri-State Rose Society by Jeff Garrett, President

The Tri-State Rose Society of Chattanooga awarded former society President, Carol Sharpe with the ARS Bronze Medal at their annual banquet in December. The presentation was made by incoming Society President, Jeff Garrett (*photo right*). The banquet was held at Mammie Carlotta's Tea Room located in the Chattanooga Mercantile. Carol was recognized for her long and dedicated service to the society. Carol is a dedicated ambassador to the Rose and the society. She has always made it a priority to welcome visitors to our monthly meetings. Congratulations Carol!

The Tri-State Rose Society of Chattanooga began the new year with an informative program on fertilizers and other growing products presented by our own Dr. Casandra. Mike Thompson came down from Knoxville in February and presented a timely program on pruning. We had good attendance at both meetings.

Also, early in March, some of our members got together and pruned the roses at Veterans Park public garden. All of the roses at the park appear to have come through the winter in good shape and we are anxiously awaiting the first blooms in early May. It is always fun to hear the various comments from the walkers at the park relative to how we prune the roses back. This year we had one gentleman approach us and ask about how he should prune his Knockouts. He said they were just too big and he wanted to know if it would be okay to cut them back. Once we explained how he should do it, he thanked us but said he would sure miss seeing them bloom this year. We assured him they would still bloom. He plans to let us know if they do.



We are currently awaiting the passing of the Covid-19 virus so we can resume our normal society activities.

(continued p. 9)





## Tenarky Local Society News—Thanks to those who sent news!

### Louisville Rose Society by Janet Miller, President

The Louisville Rose Society has moved our meetings to Sunday afternoons. We had a nice turnout for our February meeting where Tom Lehmann showed the “New Roses” slides that would have been shown at the Tenarky winter meeting. Carol Shockley was kind enough to share her presentation with us. We all made comments and shared what we knew as we enjoyed the show. We all agreed it was a mild winter and we might need to start pruning early.

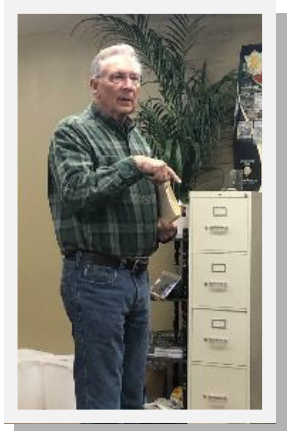
I think we would all agree now that we are very glad to have a hobby that brings us outdoors. It’s the only safe space to avoid the virus, hopefully.

We cancelled our March meeting but hope to meet again for our Spring Kickoff on April 19. Our planned speaker is Tim Sunkel. Tim has worked in our favorite nurseries and garden centers for over 30 years. He plans to speak on which fertilizers to use based on soil test results. That’s a subject I want to hear, so come on virus - Get Out!

We will have a table at the local nursery on Saturday, May 23, to talk roses and promote our club. Life will resume. Roses will bloom. Cheers Rose Buddies!

### Cookeville Area Rose Society by Nancy Lazer, Newsletter Editor

The Cookeville Area Rose Society met on February 10 at Johnson Garden Center. President Jeff Kommuck presided (*photo right*). A synopsis was given by Treasurer Jane O'Connor of the presentation by Rosarian Danielle Hahn of Rose Story Farm, Carpenteria, CA, at the Cheekwood Estate, Franklin on February 20, sponsored by the Nashville Rose Society. The meeting was attended by five CARS members (*photo below left*). A “Seasonal Review of Rose Care and Planning” was given by Sarah Johnson (*photo below center*). Butch Baber reviewed “Tools for Spring” preparation, and demonstrated a method for sharpening and maintaining clippers (*photo below right*). The planned “Rose Education Day” for March 21 was cancelled due to the Corona Virus.



### Memphis and Dixie Rose Society by Bill Dickerson, President

Our Christmas party was held at Mortimer’s seafood restaurant in December. The owner is a client with 100 or so roses and she lets us use a closed room. We had 13 folks present and a good time was had by all. We voted on keeping same officers as last year.

We have not had a meeting this year. We were planning on hosting a seminar workshop in April and a community rose show of sorts for the general public to promote roses and our rose society. As we all know too well, the virus has put a stop to all of this for now. I had planned on participating in some neighborhood garden walks with a booth representing our society, but will wait and see if this takes place.

On the bright side, I was asked by WKNO, our local community TV network, to be on “The Family Plot” hosted by Dr. Chris Cooper, our county extension agent, to show how to plant a rose bush. Of course it was pretty soggy in the station’s little garden area, but they filmed me planting a bare root rose and a potted rose. What I (*continued p. 10*)



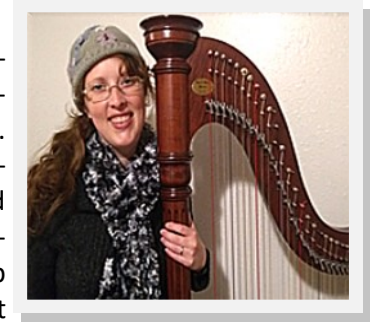
## Tenarky Local Society News—Thanks to those who sent news!

thought was a bare root was covered in a little pine mulch and when I pulled it apart was shocked (haha on air) the rose only had 2 or 3 inches of roots! It was a \$6 rose from a box store and I explained the benefits from buying from a reputable nursery!

I have noticed that the aphids are out in strong force this last of March, so be diligent!

### Tennessee Rose Society by Ken Veal, President

The Tennessee Rose Society is focused on two big goals in 2020: building membership and society funding. We recognize this is not unique to us here in Knoxville! The “new” began with a memorable Christmas dinner in early December. Michelle Arthur, an accomplished harp musician (*photo right*), played seasonal favorites and classics as members dined at the Fox Den Country Club with a featured program later. Her artistry made our gathering truly “Christmassy”. Ken Veal introduced the Presidential Awards which were framed certificates for Rose Leadership achievers. Awarded to four leaders were: Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Carlson—TRS Support Award; Mrs. Mary Bates – ARS Ambassador Award; Mr. Brian Thompson—Community Service Award and Mr. Michael Thompson – Society Education Award. Ken Veal led in an interactive “Rudolph’s Prankster Gifts” with hilarious “gifts” members modeled. Members received “stocking stuffers”—lighted inscribed 3-function pens. We all enjoyed a festive bonding for the year’s end.



January was our usual month off. February featured Dr. Mark Windham from the University of Tennessee. Dr. Mark is no stranger to Rosarians throughout our district. His unique presentation was on the subject of Rose Propagation. We learned about the history of propagating Roses, legal restrictions on propagating, and how to propagate. Those present really enjoyed Dr. Windham’s wealth of information.

March featured the usual top fare of excellent food and the regular meeting “pre-show”. Each month while socializing and enjoying delicious refreshments, seasonal-interest videos are shown on significant issues for rose growers. The March program was an interactive opportunity to test Rose knowledge. Designed by Ken Veal, the “Rose Game” was a high-energy game where people tried to match clues with knowledge bytes. Some 160 cards included clues and matching answers with information from previous speakers, workshops, and “Rose Roots” articles. Members had fun finding their “match” and collecting winning cards. Gift cards were prizes for top scorers. It was noisy as people tried to find the match, but an evening where all had a really fun time. To conclude, the members reviewed some of the matches to discuss their Rose knowledge.

Due to the Covid crisis, April meeting was canceled. May and the June picnic may also be canceled. Like other societies, we work with these new national challenges in ways that keep us safe and healthy with extra time to enjoy our gardens and the beautiful Roses to come!

### Bowling Green Rose Society by Mary Hext, Newsletter Editor

At the Bowling Green Rose Society Christmas luncheon, President Ricky Lockhart, presented Dan Wernigk, the ARS Bronze Honor Medal for his service and contributions to our local society (*photo right*). Dan takes care of the BGRS Public Rose Garden and is also our treasurer. Congratulations, Dan! Mary Ann Hext presented the program called “2019 BGRS Highlights” so we could look back and reflect on our society and member activities.

Our board met for breakfast in January to make plans for 2020. Bob Jacobs presented a program on “Waking up your Roses” at the February meeting. In March, Ricky Lockhart gave the program “Spring Pruning and Fertilizing Roses.” Several members pruned at our public rose garden abiding by social distancing rules. Our rose garden has issues with rose rosette due to infected multiflora rose growing on the river banks nearby. Our April meeting has been cancelled. We are hoping we will be able to have our rose show on May 30.





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### Tenarky Member Websites for Roses & Supplies

- [For Love of Roses](#)—Miniature & Miniflora roses
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### 2020 Tenarky Area & National Rose Shows

- ▶ May 30: Bowling Green RS Rose Show
- ▶ August 26-30: ARS National Convention & Rose Show, Colorado Springs, CO
- ▶ September 26-27: Tenarky District Fall Convention & Rose Show, hosted by NRS
- ▶ October 3: Louisville Rose Show

Check for show schedules at [www.tenarky.org](http://www.tenarky.org)!





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None

**Past District Director**

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by Paula Williams .....Linda Jansing

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*KATnips* is the quarterly newsletter of the TENARKY District of the American Rose Society. TENARKY encompasses members of the American Rose Society residing in the states of Tennessee, Eastern Arkansas and Kentucky. The newsletter is provided free in electronic format. The opinions expressed here are those of the author(s) and/or editor and do not necessarily represent those of the American Rose Society or the officers of the TENARKY District.

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