

EXCERPT FROM RECORDED INTERVIEW OF EMILY WILLIS TALKING ABOUT
ROSES AND ROSE HIPS

CONDUCTED BY KAREN BREWSTER AND SUSANNAH DOWDS

IN SKAGWAY, ALASKA

OCTOBER 4, 2018

ORAL HISTORY 2018-14-01_PT.1

KAREN BREWSTER: So this is a big, broad, general question --

EMILY WILLIS: Um-hm.

KAREN BREWSTER: -- but what have you noticed about changes when you're out in the woods?

EMILY WILLIS: So, a couple of things that really like, when -- when you called, and, you know, I was like, well, what have I noticed, you know? Probably the biggest one -- I shouldn't say the biggest one. Well, maybe it is the biggest one right now. The rosehips are turning black. And they are, I mean, you -- there's not like a lot of roses around here, but there's a few different patches of wild, and there's quite a lot of Sitka roses in people's yards and at Jewell Gardens. And I'll show you, actually, what I'm talking about after we wrap up the video portion. But they're -- the flower will be great and beautiful, and the bush is healthy and normal-looking, and then as the hip starts to form, it either doesn't grow and turns yellow and turns black, or it might actually get kind of reddish and then it will turn black. Or there's more spots. And so I'm not sure -- I have -- I haven't taken the time to really delve in and figure out what's going on because it's so -- it's widespread. It's not just in my garden, you know. It's like it's not something that I feel like I can take care of with my plants. It's something I've seen. And I don't know if it's the same thing that's affecting the wild that's affecting the Sitka roses, 'cause they're different, you know, different species.

KAREN BREWSTER: Right. But it is affecting both of them?

EMILY WILLIS: Um-hm. And the wild roses get more of the rust. There's -- I noticed it in Canada. So like, just over the pass, like near Conrad and between, like before Carcross. I've noticed, um, it's like a bright orange rust, and that can get onto the hips. So that's like, kind of like causing it to rot and be discolored and the leaves will get, you know, gnarled. And um, and it's just bright orange, it's like orange like that, like that little --

KAREN BREWSTER: That little tape thing there.

EMILY WILLIS: Yeah. And so I noticed it because that's when I was getting into plants, and you know, I'm like, oh, what is this, you know? But it didn't seem too bad. You know, it wasn't affecting a lot of plants. But over the years, I have noticed there's a lot more orange rust throughout the rosehip or wild rose population in Canada, and it's gotten down here. I hadn't noticed it down here, you know, eight-ten years ago, but now I'm seeing it.

KAREN BREWSTER: About how long have you been seeing it, a couple years?

EMILY WILLIS: Maybe, like five.

EMILY WILLIS TALKING ABOUT ROSES AND ROSE HIPS

OCTOBER 4, 2018

EXCERPT FROM ORAL HISTORY 2018-14-01_PT.1

Page 1 of 2

KAREN BREWSTER: Um-hm.

EMILY BREWSTER: Yeah. And then the hips, like the more -- or like, I'm even noticing on the Sitka roses, that's probably about two years, three years. But it seems -- it's a bummer because you know, like the hips are one of the funnest parts to harvest. You know, you can do so much, so many things. You can use it for jams or jellies, and I make a really nice lip balm out of them.

KAREN BREWSTER: And you can't -- the time, there was not enough time to harvest them before they turn --

EMILY WILLIS: No. No. They don't ripen. They don't ripen in time, and then they just turn black. And like, I noticed at Jewell Gardens, their hips are actually -- they do really well, but mine here, I had a great year for flowers, and I let quite a few flowers go to seed. Nothin'. But then I have a different rose. It's a dark-leaf red rose. I can't remember the scientific name, but that one doesn't seem to be affected so much.

EMILY WILLIS TALKING ABOUT ROSES AND ROSE HIPS

OCTOBER 4, 2018

EXCERPT FROM ORAL HISTORY 2018-14-01_PT.1

Page 2 of 2