

# Red River Rose Society Newsletter

Volume 1

April 2008

Number 2

**The Red River Rose Society is a local, nonprofit organization affiliated with the ARS and dedicated to the study, enjoyment, enhancement, cultivation, and promotion of the rose.**

## RRRS Meetings

The Red River Rose Society meets the third Tuesday of each month (except Jul & Aug) in the Denison Public Library meeting room at 7:00 pm.

If you have questions/concerns about your roses you can email [rosemedic@cablone.net](mailto:rosemedic@cablone.net). Your inquiry will be forwarded to an expert for an answer.

“Ask the Expert” will be held from 6:30 to 7:00pm prior to our monthly meeting. Bring your questions, cuttings to share, or just come to cuss & discuss.

## RRRS March Meeting Review – Nancy Grella, Secy/Treas

Speaker: Dr Kevin Ong shared his expertise on Rose Diseases and Management. He said that to get a handle on and control potential disease problems you must understand the basics...why do diseases happen...when do diseases happen...what makes a plant susceptible. Nancy's Notes from this lecture are at the end of this meeting recap.

### Activities/Information/Announcements:

1. New Membership Applications: 1 – Linda Mortimer. Remember, all members joining in 2008 will receive an EarthKind Rose. (Note: The roses, for both new members and door prize winners, are still being hardened off and will be brought to the April meeting).
2. Society Membership: 40
3. Finances: As of 19 Mar: \$315.00 cash on hand and \$631.42 in the bank. We collected \$117.00 in advanced rose sales (this figure is not included in the previous figures) and one more person is going to order. Thanks to Joe Abernathy's Shear Sharpening Service, another \$10.00 was added to the coffers – to date Joe has raised \$100.00 for the RRRS!!!! Gracias Joe.
4. Continuing Education Hours: 1.5
5. Bill Cashin announced that on Sunday, April 20<sup>th</sup>, at 12:30, the Oswald's have invited all the area rose societies to a picnic lunch at the Chambersville Heritage Rose Garden to see the fruits of their pruning labors. This generous family will be supplying the hot dogs and hamburgers and they ask that everyone bring a dish to share. RSVPs are required to help determine the amount of food needed.
6. Sue Abernathy has been working hard to get the RRRS into local nurseries. The updated schedule is:

Henry's  
Twin Oaks

Saturday Apr 12<sup>th</sup> 11:00 – 1:00  
Saturday May 10<sup>th</sup> 11:00 – 1:00

7. Dr. Ong briefly touched on the 'Urban Plant Detective' program. A new study will be starting soon. Information will be disseminated through Master Gardener channels.
8. Bill Cashin announced that the Collin County Rose Society is holding its annual rose garden tour on the weekend of April 12 & 13. Everyone who has ever made the tour says it is spectacular. So mark your calendars.
9. The RRRS Rose Sale on Saturday, April 26<sup>th</sup> is well into the planning stage. The EarthKind roses have been order and are scheduled to be picked up on April 17<sup>th</sup>. Many of the RRRS members have taken advantage of our pre-order offer. We will need RRRS members to help at the sale. Richard McGowan will get the names of the volunteers at the April 15<sup>th</sup> meeting.
10. At last month's meeting, Nancy Grella floated the idea of holding a photo contest with judging at the October meeting. Members at this meeting voted not to have a photo contest.
11. Bill Cashin announced a new raffle program. To be entered into the raffle, you must bring a cut rose to the monthly meeting. The roses will be left for the library staff. The raffle prize has yet to be determined—but it will be a good one (Bill promises).
12. FYI: If you have questions/concerns about your roses you can email [rosemedic@cableone.net](mailto:rosemedic@cableone.net). Your inquiry will be forwarded to an expert for an answer.
13. FYI: "Ask the Expert" will be held from 6:30 to 7:00pm prior to our monthly meeting. At this meeting, the discussion revolved around using Epsom salts, when to start fertilizing, and various sprayers. Bring your questions, cuttings to share, or just come to cuss & discuss.

**Drawing Winners:** Colleen Frimann, Jerry Haynes, Barb Grisham and Gordon Green received bottles of organic fertilizer; Bob Wilson won a Scarlet Moss rose; Sue Abernathy laid claim to a Liberty Bell rose; and, Harriet Steward took home the *The Rose for Today...Growing Beautiful Mini-Florals* by Sean McCann.

**Next RRRS Meeting: Tuesday, April 15<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 in the Denison Public Library. Jimmy Sanford will discuss "Miniature Roses". Don't forget, you are also invited to join RRRS members and the guest speaker at Davoli's for dinner prior to the meeting.**

## NANCY'S NOTES

### DOWNY MILDEW (*peronospora sparsa*)

- Likes a cool and moist environment
- Angular lesions on the leaves (black spot has "feathery" margins)
- Found a lot on new roses
- Over-winters as dormant mycelia in lesions on the canes
- Spore production & infections occur in periods of cool, humid weather normally in early to mid-spring. Optimal spore germination occurs at 64 degrees
- Relative humidity below 85% and temp above 80 degrees suppresses disease development
- Spores are killed by exposure to 80 degrees for 24 hours

- To test for downy mildew, place the rose in an enclosed space (big baggie) with a wet paper towel. Within 24 hours, you will be able to tell.

### **BLACK SPOT (*diplocarpona rosae*) Fungal**

- 2-12 mm diameter on the upper surface of the leaf
- Spots are typically circular with feathery, radiating margins
- Surrounding leaf tissue turns yellow/chlorotic
- Raised purple-red irregular blotches develop on immature wood
- Like warm (75 degree) weather and leaves that stay wet for 7-9 hours
- Over-winters on leaf litter beneath the rose bush
- Disseminating by the wind and splash up
- Debris can be composted if you are confident that your pile gets hot enough

### **POWDERY MILDEW (*sphaerotheca pannosa*) Fungal**

- Contorts the leaf
- Has a slightly raised blister-like red areas
- White growth consisting of mycelium fungal growth may also occur on stem tissue
- Disease development is inhibited by films of water on leaves

### **CEREOSPORA LEAF SPOT Fungal**

- Circular spots 1-5 mm
- Dull gray center with brown to reddish margins
- Fungus sporulates mainly on upper surface

### **BOTRYTIS Fungal**

- Only aggressive on dying plant tissue
- Called 'Royal Fungus' in the grape industry
- Incorrect fertilization promotes this problem.

### **CROWN GALL Bacterial**

- Needs a wound to enter the plant
- Bacteria is usually found in the soil and is transmitted through splash up

### **VIRALS**

- Not a well studied group
- 'Witches Broom' is caused by a virus that is carried by insects

## **Cashin's Cache**

April is certainly one of the busiest months for rosarians. Almost every weekend is filled with rose related events. April 12, 13, is the Collin County Rose Society Garden tour and that is one of the highlights of the year for local rosarians, April 19<sup>th</sup> is the Dallas Rose Society Rose show at the Dallas Arboretum, April 20<sup>th</sup> is the Chamberville Heritage Rose Garden Spring tour and picnic, and we finish up the month with the Red River Rose Society first ever EarthKind Rose Sale at the courthouse in Sherman on April 26<sup>th</sup>. Don't forget the date of the Heritage Rose Garden tour has been changed from April 6<sup>th</sup> to April 20.

Carol Mainwaring, a consulting rosarian, has agreed to take over the duties of writing a consulting rosarian column in our newsletter starting next month. Carol has been very active in the Dallas Rose Society and we really appreciate her help. She and her recently retired husband are in the process of building a new home in the area. Thank you Carol!

Don't forget to bring a rose to the April meeting to share with all the great people that work at the Denison Library.

### **Pruning Shear Sharpening Service**

Is your garage filled with dull or rusty pruning shears that have seen better days? Bring your old pruning shears to any Red River Rose Society Meeting and for a \$5/shear donation to the RRRS your shears will be sharpened and lubricated and returned to you at the meeting the following month.

Joe & Sue Abernathy are offering this hard to find service for Red River Rose Society members. Working pruning shears and loppers will be sharpened and made like new, however, no replacement parts are available.

Remember, sharpened shears create less damage to roses and result in less frustration and work for the gardener! So, let's all take advantage of this continuing service and help raise money for the RRRS.

## **April in your Rose Garden**



- ✓ April is finally here and our roses are starting to show lots of new growth. Take another close look at each of your roses to see if the last freeze or SNOW STORM damaged any canes. If so prune off the damaged section of those canes.
- ✓ Check your layer of mulch around your rose bushes and if most of it has turned into compost over the winter now would be a good time to replenish it. I like to have a layer of 3 to 4 inches thick in my rose beds.
- ✓ If you didn't add any alfalfa pellets in to your roses in March, now would be a good time to add a cup around each bush. You will notice the difference in roses within a few days.
- ✓ Water, Water, Water those roses. Here in north Texas it's either a major flood or dry as a bone. Make sure your roses bushes never dry out. Watering once a week during the early Spring will ensure roses get the moisture they need. If mother nature provides then of course you won't need to water that week.
- ✓ Feed those roses! Roses have huge appetites and they will reward you with beautiful blooms if you will follow a set feeding schedule, either monthly, bi-weekly or weekly. The key here is to follow the directions on the fertilizer you

wish to use. I prefer to feed my roses weekly so I cut the recommended monthly dosage in quarters and feed one quarter strength of the solution per week.

- ✓ Aphids from across the continent seem to be able to detect new rose growth in my backyard. Each aphid is born with live babies already in their tummies. Two approaches to getting rid of them. Some rosarians use a high pressure stream of water from a hose to displace them from their bushes. I have found a relatively new product called Merit, which is a systemic insecticide, does an excellent job of controlling this pest.

Powdery Mildew shows up in my rose garden every spring. Warm temperatures during the day and cool temperatures at night present the perfect conditions for spores of PM to grow. There are several good fungicides available to control PM and Blackspot. The key if you choose to use them is to follow the directions on the labels and apply them on the recommended intervals.

## **Chambersville Heritage Rose Garden Spring Garden Tour April 20, 2008**



Dean and Carol Oswald have invited the Red River Rose Society membership to a Spring picnic and tour of their Heritage Rose Garden, April 20. Dean and Carol will provide the hamburgers and hotdogs and they ask everyone to bring their own drinks and a dish to share. Also everyone will need to bring their own chairs. The garden will be open at 12:30 pm. **Please RSVP to Nancy Grella so they will have a count.**

## 2008 Calendar of Events

- April 12 and 13, Collin County Rose Society Spring Garden Tour
- April 15, RRRS Meeting Denison Library, Jim Sanford, 'Miniature Roses.'
- April 19, Dallas Rose Society Show at the Dallas Arboretum, 1:00 – 4:00pm
- April 20, Spring Tour of the Heritage Rose Garden In Chamberville.
- May 3, Grayson County Master Gardeners Garden Tour, 10:00am – 4:00 pm
- May 5 and 6, Whitewright, Tx. Annual Rose and Garden Tour.
- May 20, RRRS Meeting Denison Library 6:30 pm, Mike Becker, 'The Story of Perfumes; Roses and other Fragrances.'
- May 30-June 1<sup>st</sup>, ARS National Miniature Rose Show, OK City.
- June 17, RRRS Meeting Denison Library 7:00 pm, Jim Herbison, 'Extending the life of your cut roses.'

### **RRRS to Sell EarthKind Roses for Principle and for Profit Richard McGowan**



**Marie Daly**

I love roses. I don't love all the work that goes with growing them. Exotic fertilizers, strict pruning techniques, and special fungicides and pesticides are the stuff of more devoted rosarians. They're for the hybrid tea fanatics who cherish perfect blooms. They're not for me.

That's where EarthKind roses fill the gap. They love any sort of high nitrogen fertilizer, the same one you use for your lawn will do. You can prune them with hedging shears. And sure, they get pests and funguses, but they pass them off without a blink in their continual blooming habit. In short, EarthKind roses produce beautiful landscapes with minimal maintenance and maximum protection to the environment.

EarthKind roses ought to be seen more in the Red River Valley. The RRRS needs to help that happen and here's what we decided to do. At our executive board meeting on 1 February, we decided we could with one stone catch two birds: spreading EarthKind roses in the region, and raising a little money to support our club programs. On Saturday, 26 April, RRRS will set up a stall on the Grayson County Courthouse Square in Sherman, and we're going to sell only EarthKind roses. Right next to the popular Master Gardeners' annual spring plant sale, we hope.

Now we won't have every EarthKind, but we'll have most of them. Purchases of one gallon plants from Chamblee's Rose Nursery in Tyler will be supplemented by a generous donation of specially "hand-raised" specimens from the extensive private nursery of our president Bill Cashin. If the experience of the Master Gardeners is any guide for us, our stock will be pretty well picked over by noon.

As we get closer to the date, I'll be asking for a commitment from members to help man our stall. Weather permitting, our roses will all be gone by early afternoon, and RRRS will have two birds neatly tucked into its game pouch. Keep your fingers crossed, and keep 26 April open in your calendar for the RRRS.

### **Say Thanks to the Library with ROSES!**

**Locating a place to hold meetings for 40 to 50 people is tall order in any town unless you have deep pockets. The Denison library and its staff have been more than accommodating to the Red River Rose Society. Let's say thanks by everyone bringing one or more but at least one cut rose to each meeting starting with our April meeting. At the end of our meeting we will give the roses to the library staff. Use anything you would like for a vase, paper or plastic cups will work just fine. We will have 3 x 5 note cards for each rose so you can write down your name, the name of the rose, and a few details about the rose.**



**For example your note card might look like this:**

**Damifino**

**Hybrid Tea**

**A mild tea like fragrance**

**Bill Cashin**

**This will also allow other members to see blooms from many different roses and be able to ask the owner questions about it to see if it might be suitable for their garden. At the end of the meeting we will hold a separate drawing of just those individuals that bought a rose for the library staff.**