

# Red River Rose Society Newsletter

Volume 1

Number 1

[Rosemedic@cableone.net](mailto:Rosemedic@cableone.net)

## Cashin's Cache

Thanks to all of you we are off to a flying start for 2008. We have added several new positions to the board of directors. June Boyett has agreed to be our newsletter editor and Barb Grisham has agreed to become our consulting rosarian and roses in review coordinator. We are still looking for a third member to join the board to chair our annual fund raising project.

Not only are we starting off 2008 with our first newsletter by June Boyett; Nancy Grella, world famous treasurer of our organization, has designed our first brochure. Other changes for 2008 include the creation of an email address, [rosemedic@cableone.net](mailto:rosemedic@cableone.net), for anyone with special questions about growing roses. We will also have rosarians on hand at 6:30 pm at the library before our monthly meetings to answer any questions you might have with your roses.

Dr. Stephen George and Dr. Wayne Mackay from Texas A & M announced that Mme Antoine Mari and New Dawn have been added to the list of EarthKind Roses for 2008. This now brings the total to 17 that have earned the title 'EarthKind Rose'.

## RRRS Meeting Calendar

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. The schedule til the summer break is:

Feb 19 – Mark Steljes of Tulsa, Ok. Mark will tell us how to prune roses and will conduct a hands-on workshop at Eisenhower Birthplace the next day.

Mar 18 – Dr Kevin Ong. "Infectious Diseases of Roses."

Apr 15 – Jim Sanford. "Miniature Roses."

May 20 – Mike Becker. "The Story of Perfumes: Rose and Other Fragrances." 6:30 pm (Note time change)

Jun 17 – Jim Herbison. "Extending the Life of Your Cut Roses."

## RRRS January Meeting Review

Worldwide the hybrid tea rose is the most popular of all the rose groups and represents the peak of modern breeding. A cross of the hybrid perpetuals and the tea roses from China, the first HT appeared in 1867. It is grafted onto hardier rose roots and produces lots of long-stemmed, almost perfectly formed blooms, the type most prized in rose shows.

Hybrid teas are the specialty of Dr. John Allen of Lucas, Texas, guest speaker at January's meeting of the Red River Rose Society. Born and raised in Redford, Michigan, he started raising prize dahlias as his parents had done before him. When he moved to Texas in 1984 he soon realized that temperatures over 85 degrees kill dahlias. In this climate, roses took the place of dahlias in his garden and in his heart.

Dr. Allen showed photos of roses he has grown, many of which won Queen of the Show awards at the annual Dallas and Fort Worth rose shows. Among his favorites are Raphaela, Classic Beauty, Perfectly Red, White Success, Pristine, St. Patrick, Cajun Sunrise, Uncle Joe, and Diana, Princess of Wales. The full list of his successes is much longer. Dr. Allen says all grow well in Texas—if you are willing to do the work they need. HT's stop growing in clay, he says, and require raised beds filled with a mixture of equal parts of clay sand, rotted manure, and peat moss.

Diseases and insects can be reduced if HT's are planted three to four feet apart in full sun, but the numerous problems they have can only be controlled by spraying at least once a week from February to November. For fertilizer, Dr. Allen uses either chemical or organic products with a high phosphorus number. But such meticulous care has certainly paid off for Dr. Allen. A spectacular and aromatic home rose garden and the many rose show prizes are testimony to his skill with HT's.

## 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 in 2008!

## Subject: Another Special for RRRS Members – February 19<sup>th</sup> Meeting

Remember Mark Stelljes owner of Roses Inc, Tulsa who was our guest speaker last September? Well, he is returning for an encore at the Red River Rose Society meeting on February 19th. Mark has graciously offered to haul down any items you wish to purchase from Roses, Inc. (Many of our folks have fallen in love with his 'special' rose fertilizer--the blue stuff). Any way if you want to purchase anything, go to his website:

<http://rosesintulsa.com> . This is not a direct link. When you order from the website put "Red River Rose Society" in the remarks section so Mark knows that your items are coming to Texas in February (& saving you the shipping charge!!!!) The roses listed on the website are in stock. If you want something not listed call Mark at 918-455-7673 or email him at [astelljes@cox.net](mailto:astelljes@cox.net) (not a direct link) so he can try to get it. **If you order any items from Roses Inc, Tulsa, you must be at February's meeting to pick them up.**

## Demystifying the Pruning Process

### What the Textbooks Don't Tell You

I can sympathize with the new rosarian. Pruning roses can seem like a mystery, especially if you have never done it before. I can still remember the first time that I attempted to prune a rose bush. I had bought a book about pruning, and for me it was a big process. I studied the book for hours before I would even go out into the yard and attempt the first cut. I was terrified that I would kill my three roses if I cut them the wrong way. Then I instructed my husband Bob where to make each cut and we hoped for the best. Of course, we did not kill those roses and they thrived in spite of our ignorance. But each year for several years we fretted that we would do something wrong.

Then we joined the Los Angeles Rose Society in 1987, and they held a public pruning demonstration at Descanso Gardens. That pruning demonstration made all the difference in the world. It's one thing to read about pruning in a book, but you have to actually get out there and see it being done to learn what pruning is all about. We do hope that you will participate in a pruning demonstration offered by your local rose society. But for now, I would like to give you a few advance pointers to think about, to help alleviate your fears.

### You Are Not Going to Kill Your Rose Bush!

With the exception of lopping off your rose bush at ground level, there is practically nothing you can do that will kill your rose bush. Even if you do lop it off at ground level, and actually cut off the "hybrid" bud union, you would still have rootstock that would probably grow, although it would most likely be a "wild" red rose, i.e., Dr. Huey. If your rose is not grafted onto rootstock and is growing on its own roots, it would probably still send up some new canes.

### What Does "Hard" Pruning Mean?

Since my hybrid teas grow to heights of 5 or 6 feet, hard pruning for me would mean 2 feet tall. But my neighbor's roses are new bushes of different varieties than mine, so his only grow 4 feet tall. For him, hard pruning might mean one foot tall. The meaning of "hard" is only relative to what your situation is. I rarely hard prune my roses, and then only on a very selective basis, for a rose that needs a shock to get jump started and rejuvenated.

### You Do Not Need to Prune Hard in the Southern US

But of course we DO NOT want you to lop off your roses at ground level. You don't even need to prune your roses hard as they sometimes instruct you to do in the rose books. If you lived in the very

cold regions of the United States, such as Chicago, you would need to prune your bushes hard, but this is not necessary in Southern US.

### **You Do Not Need to Prune Down to the Best Three to Five Canes**

The rose pruning books would have you believe that every rose bush in your garden needs to be pruned to exactly 3 or 5 canes. That is nonsense. Of course, the new bareroot roses will probably have 3 to 5 canes, but established rose bushes will have many more canes than that, and it would be horribly sad to cut off all those bloom producing canes. I keep all the newest, greenest canes, and this could mean 12 or more depending on the variety and the age of the rose bush. Do get rid of all those very old, brown canes. You want to encourage new, green basal canes to grow.

### **All Roses Are Not Created Equal**

Hybrid teas, floribundas, shrubs, climbers, old garden roses, and miniatures are all different types of roses. They each need to be pruned differently. You cannot just lop them off at the same height. Each bush has its own unique personality and therefore needs to be pruned accordingly. Even roses of the same type need to be pruned individually. For example, you may have a hybrid tea that usually grows very tall and another one that grows very short. You would not prune both of these roses the same way, as one you would prune shorter and the other one you would prune taller.

### **You Don't Need to Spend Hours Agonizing Over Every Bush**

If you're spending more than 15 minutes on a large hybrid tea, you are spending too much time on it. A miniature should take no more than 5 minutes. For minis we simply use large, scissor-type hedge trimmers. A couple of large whacks does the trick, and then we do a little detail work on the individual canes. A climber or old garden rose could take a bit longer, simply because they are larger and may need to be selectively pruned and perhaps trained or pegged.

### **Do I Really Need to Remove All the Leaves on the Bush?**

No, you don't have to. Your rose bush will not die or suffer if you don't. If you have a lot of roses and are really pinched for time, you could skip this step. However, removing all the foliage from a rose bush when it is being pruned serves many purposes that is good for your roses. First, stripping all the leaves and discarding them helps to control insects and diseases. It is the only time of the year when you can start anew. Also, removing the foliage will help your roses go temporarily dormant, which they need to start over. The third reason to remove the foliage is because a new cane will emerge at each point from which a set of leaflets is removed. Removing the foliage encourages the new canes to grow, and all the foliage you leave on will eventually die anyway.

### **Why Do I Have to Seal the Ends of the Canes After Pruning?**

Here again, you don't have to. I used to do it when I only had 50 rose bushes because I was told by more experienced rosarians that I had to do it. We would dab a little white Elmer's glue on the end of each pruned cane to help prevent cane borer damage. These borers drill into the ends of the freshly cut canes and lay their eggs, and sometimes the cane will die back. With 350 rose bushes now, we do not do this anymore since it is a tremendous amount of work and is very time-consuming. I occasionally see some cane borer damage, but it is so minimal that it is not worth the time it takes to seal the ends of the canes of all my roses.

### **Do I Really Need to Prune My Roses?**

If you really want to grow good roses, yes, you need to. But don't make it into a bigger and more complicated project than it really is.

Reprinted from the January 2000 issue of Rose Ecstasy, bulletin of the Santa Clarita Valley Rose Society, by Kitty Belendez, Editor.

## **WHAT TO DO IN YOUR GARDEN IN FEBRUARY – by Bill Cashin**

February is finally here and we all know Spring is just around the corner. It seems like it's been a very long time since we saw our roses in bloom. This year I have resolved to do a little better with my roses and I recommend

you all consider dedicating a calendar for Roses only! I like the DayMinder calendars that dedicate two pages for each month. They publish many different calendars, mine is called the 2008 Monthly Planner and the reorder number is SK2. I get mine at Office Depot in Sherman.

Starting with February, I will schedule all rose activities that need to be done each month. For example I may schedule water the roses for each Monday in February unless we happen to get sufficient rain. I will also track the rainfall and update the calendar with how much rain we received on any particular date. As we move into Spring I will schedule spray days on my calendar as well as water days. I will note on the scheduled spray day what chemicals I used. Anything that happens out of the ordinary I will also enter into my rose calendar.

**Water**, Remember our rose bushes are dormant not DEAD! I plan on watering my roses every 7 to 10 days in the really cold months unless we get a lot of rain during this period.

If you are planning to order some new roses for your garden this year you better be quick or else you will see sold out signs on just the ones you wanted. February is also a good time to transplant those roses that perhaps didn't do well in the spot you had them last year or perhaps they just outgrew that location.

Now is the time to really clean out those rose beds and start removing those dead leaves that most likely will be home to some over-wintering fungi's spores and insect eggs.

Check the pH levels in your rose beds to see if corrective action is necessary. Roses prefer a pH between 6.0 and 6.9. Your local county extension office has the necessary forms to submit samples of your soil for evaluation. The report that is issued by Texas A&M will tell you what to add to your soil to get the pH in the preferred range for roses.

South of us they start pruning their roses in mid February. I like to wait until the first week in March. The key here is to prune your roses any time after the last hard freeze. Three hours north of us, in the Tulsa area, they prune their roses in the mid-March time frame. Unfortunately, last year they had a hard freeze in early April and their Spring Bloom was completely wiped out; in fact, they lost many roses to that hard freeze.

#### **CALENDAR OF AREA ROSE EVENTS**

**Feb 16,17** - Shreveport ARS Gardens annual pruning party

**March 7, 8** - ARS Winter Workshop, Conway Arkansas.

**April 19/20th** - Chamblee's Nursery two day rose program.

**April 26 – Red River Rose Society EarthKind Rose Sale**

**May 3rd, 4th** Collin County Rose Society Garden Tour.

**May 5<sup>th</sup> – 10 am – 5 pm; May 6<sup>th</sup> – 1 pm – 5 pm** – Whitewright, TX Annual Rose and Garden Tour

**May 30-June 1st** ARS National Miniature Rose Show, Ok City.

#### **OTHER ROSE EVENTS OF INTEREST**

The Farmers Branch Community Recreation Center at 14050 Heartside Place is sponsoring seminars on pruning and soil amendments. For information call 972-919-2625, to register 972-247-4607.

February 2, Elements of Pruning by Turner Hasty, Consulting Rosarian

February 9, Soil Amendments by Baron Ablon of Soil Building Systems

**Texas A&M Research and Extension Center 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday ECG Educational Series at 9:00 AM.** These are 1-hour classes with the purpose of providing continuing education to ALL interested persons. These programs are open to the general public. For more information, contact Scherle Barth at 972-952-9210 or at [ECG@dallas.tamu.edu](mailto:ECG@dallas.tamu.edu).

Jan 19 Fruit tree/vine pruning workshop, Dr. Kevin Ong, Extension Urban Plant Pathologist  
Feb 18 Compost Matters!, Mr. Fred Karr, Master Composter  
Mar 15 Plant Growth Enhancers, Mr. Bobby Thurman, Lawns Alive, Inc.  
Apr 19 Creating A Rain Garden, Dr. Fouad Jaber, Extension Integrated Water Research Mgmt Specialist  
May 17 Hot weather preparations for the garden, Dr. Dotty Woodson, Extension Water Resource Program Spec

**Dean and Carol Oswald have very kindly invited all of the North Texas Rose Societies (and any other interested Rosarians) to attend a Pruning Party to be held on Saturday, February 23, 2008, at their Chambersville Heritage Rose Garden. We will gather at the garden around 10:30 a.m. for rose fellowship and a great learning experience. Lunch will be provided. Bring your secateurs!**

### *Driving Directions to the Garden:*

From Central Expressway (US Hwy 75 North),  
Driving north from Dallas to McKinney:

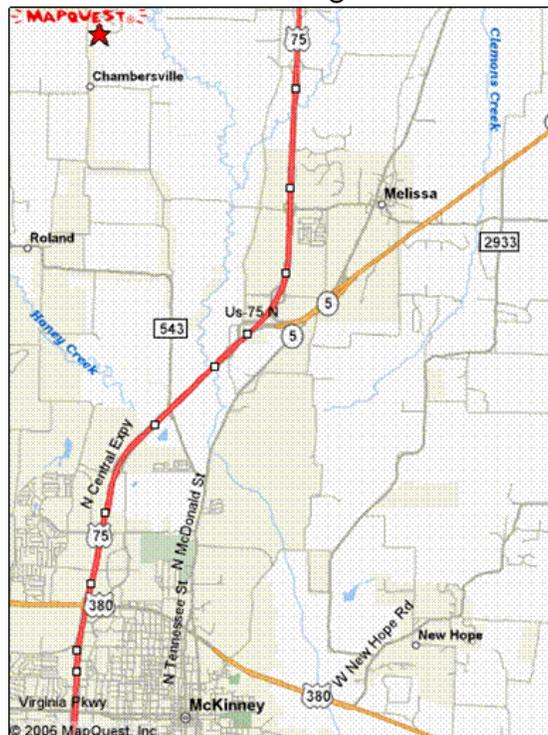
Exit at Exit No. 43, toward FM543;

Turn left (west) onto Weston Road/FM543, and drive 1.6 miles;

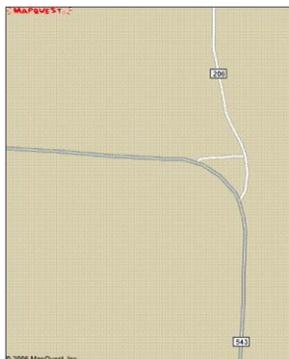
Turn right onto CR 206; drive 3.7 miles;

Turn Right into Chambersville Tree Farm (open gate at 7032)

Follow the road to the Heritage Farm Rose Garden.



**The big picture – McKinney to Chambersville (See Star under the word “Mapquest”)**



**Watch for turn from 543 onto 206.**

**It's easy to miss!**

**Below: Detail. You will pass a church on the left side of the road and a cemetery on the right side of the road. That's all that remains of Chambersville. Then look for the gate to**



**Chambersville Tree Farm on your right.**

**2008 SCD Winter Workshop  
Hosted By Central Arkansas Rose Society  
Conway, AR  
Guest Speakers**

***Paula Adlong - Conway Arkansas - CR Mission***

Paula started growing roses at the end of a garden plot with less than 10 hybrid tea bushes in 1988. She and her husband Don now grow 450 roses of all types. She has presented programs at the local, district and national level to both rose societies and Master Gardener meetings. Paula is both an Accredited ARS Judge and Consulting Rosarian, designated Master Consulting Rosarian with the initial class. She served the Tenarky District as CR Chairperson for three years and received the Outstanding Consulting Rosarian of the Tenarky District for the year 2005. Paula and Don were awarded the Bronze Honor Medal in 2001.

Paula has been hybridizing roses on a small scale for the past several years. She has registered four roses; Sallijane, Ophie O, Southern Breeze and her latest is White Linen.

***Dr. Steve Vann - Little Rock, AR - University of Arkansas Extension Office – Rose Diseases***

Dr. Vann is Extension Plant Pathologist/Adjunct Assistant Professor for the University of Arkansas. He received his Ph.D. in Plant Pathology from Texas A&M University. Dr. Vann's research has led to numerous publications. His interests are in the area of plant disease diagnosis and host-parasite interactions. He has more than 15 years experience in the diagnosis of biotic and abiotic plant diseases and disorders. Currently, one of his major responsibilities is to serve as director and principal diagnostician of the state's only land grant plant disease clinic, which is operated by the University of Arkansas,

Cooperative Extension Service. He has served in this capacity for more than 10 years. He is very active in conducting educational programs throughout the state. During 2002, more than 500 people in 38 Arkansas counties have received training through his Master Gardener activities.

***Baxter Williams - Houston, TX - Basic Horticulture, Soil and Water***

Baxter has been growing roses since his first plantings in 1966 and his garden now includes over 600 varieties of roses of all types. He has served both his local society, the Houston Rose Society, and the South Central District in numerous capacities. He presently serves as District Director for the South Central District. Baxter is an accredited ARS Horticulture Judge and Consulting Rosarian. He was designated Master Consulting Rosarian with the initial class. He has served as CR Chairman for the SCD and was awarded the Outstanding Consulting Rosarian of the SCD. He was awarded the Silver Honor Medal for his service to the SCD. This is the highest recognition of service that can be awarded for service to a district. He and his wife, Patsy, have been sought out as speakers for many rose oriented events. He has authored numerous articles concerning rose horticulture in the monthly Houston Rose-Ette newsletter, and also in the American Rose magazine. Several of his published articles have emphasized the how-to-do-it aspects of rose growing and garden construction principles, based on personal experiences and his engineering background.

***Frank Fingers - Fayetteville, AR - Fertilizers***

Frank is the founder and owner of Nitron Industries, a company with 20+ years experience with organic fertilizers. Among Nitron Industries' many products is Nitron Formula A-35. A-35 acts as a catalyst and compliments soils natural enzymes. It activates and releases nutrients in the soil as well as those added with fertilizer. Nitron's enzyme catalyst will aid in the release of nutrients and trace elements to plants in any kind of soil. A second product is Nitron's Nature Meal Rose & Flower Fertilizer. This mixture of organic ingredients is a 4-6-2 fertilizer.

***Ralph Cooper - Van Buren, AR - Chemicals, Spraying and Safety***

Ralph was born in Jasper, TX, raised in Newton, TX. He attended Stephen F. Austin college where he studied Forestry with a minor in chemistry. He went to work for E.I. DuPont and worked there for 38 years. Ralph started growing roses in 1988 under the close and watchful eyes of Pop Warner, Slats Wathen, Gator Dollinger, Dale Dardeau, Tommy Hebert and his high school buddy John Premeaux.

"I got really involved with chemicals used in rose growing, because I knew chemicals, but didn't know how to raise roses. Tommy Hebert was the rose society chemical person, always keeping up with the newest fungicides, miticides, and pesticides. It was a no brainer for me to fall in and help...so carefully and cautiously. I began to get more and more into the growing the roses with proper use of spraying, watering, and fertilizing.. I started out with 10 rose bushes that Pop, Slats, and Gator picked out for me. That was the meager start of a garden that grew to 552 bushes." Upon retirement, Ralph and his wife Gayle moved to Van Buren, AR. He has made tremendous contributions to the Ft. Smith rose society and societies in Arkansas and Oklahoma with the sharing of his expertise. "Like Tommy Hebert, I try to keep up with all the latest chemicals and fertilizers that are coming on the market..."

Ralph has been honored by the South Central District in receiving both the Outstanding Consulting Rosarian Award and the Outstanding Judge Award.

***Carol Shockley - Conway, AR - New Rose Introductions***

Carol has been growing roses for about 20 years and presently grows approximately 200 bushes of all types. She was among the first group of Consulting Rosarians to be designated Master Consulting Rosarian. She has served the Central Arkansas Rose Society in virtually every capacity including President and Rose Show Chairman. She has served both CARS and the Tenarky District as editor of the respective newsletters. Carol has authored numerous articles on rose culture. For her outstanding service she has been recognized by CARS with the Bronze Honor Medal and the by the Tenarky District with the Silver Honor Medal. In recent years Carol has become very interested in new rose introductions. She has made contacts with leading rose hybridizers and propagators. Her Power Point presentations at local and district meetings **have been very well recieved.**

# SCD Winter Workshop and Consulting Rosarian School

Hosted By Central Arkansas Rose Society

March 7 - 8, 2008

Faulkner County Natural Resources Center

110 South Amity

Conway, AR

Friday, March 7

4:00 - 5:30 Wine and cheese – Don & Paula Adlong's Home

5:30 - 6:00 Registration – Faulkner County Natural Resources Center

6:00 - 8:00 Welcome reception and dinner– Faulkner County Natural Resources Center

Saturday March 8

8:00 - 8:30 Registration – Faulkner County Natural Resources Center

8:30 - 8:35 *Welcome* – Bob Inns, Central Arkansas Rose Society President

8:35 - 8:45 *Consulting Rosarian Mission* – Paula Adlong

8:45 - 9:35 *Rose Diseases* – Dr. Steve Vann

9:35 - 9:45 BREAK

9:45 - 10:45 *Basic Horticulture, Soils And Water* – Baxter Williams

10:45 - 11:00 BREAK

11:00 - 11:45 *Fertilizers* – Frank Fingers

11:45 - 12:45 LUNCH

12:45 - 1:00 *Update From SCD Director* – Baxter Williams

1:00 - 2:00 *Chemicals, Spraying And Safety* – Ralph Cooper

2:00 - 2:15 BREAK

2:15 - 3:15 *New Rose Introductions* – Carol Shockley

3:15 - 3:20 *Closing Remarks*

3:30 *Examination For Consulting Rosarian Candidates*

Door prizes will be awarded throughout the day. Silent auction will be conducted. Consulting Rosarians will receive renewed accreditation for four years.

## WORKSHOP REGISTRATION

Please print or type (list names(s) as desired on name tags):

Name(s):

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Address: City: State: Zip:

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Telephone: ( ) Email Address: Local Society: \_\_\_\_\_

Number Price Total

Registration (Postmarked **BY** March 1, 2008) \$45.00 \_\_\_\_\_

Registration (Postmarked **AFTER** March 1, 2008) \$50.00 \_\_\_\_\_

(Registration fee includes the wine and cheese reception, Friday evening dinner and Saturday lunch)

Total Amount Enclosed \_\_\_\_\_

Please check if you plan to attend: Wine and cheese reception

Friday evening dinner

Saturday lunch

CR Examination

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO CENTRAL ARKANSAS ROSE SOCIETY

MAIL TO: Paula Adlong

3 Tanager Trail

Conway, AR 72032

501-329-6996 paulaa@alliancecable.net

## **Lodging Accommodations**

The hotels listed below are all in the immediate vicinity of Exit 127 off Interstate 40 and approximately one mile from the Faulkner County Natural Resources Center. Please make reservations directly with the hotel. The primary hotel will be the Hilton Garden Inn.

### **Hampton Inn**

**501-329-8999**

### **Comfort Suites**

**501-329-8548**

### **Hilton Garden Inn**

**501-329-1444**

### **Best Western**

**501-329-9855**

### **Days Inn**

**501-450-7575**

### **Americas Best Value Inn & Suites**

**501-329-8392**

## **Driving Directions**

### **Hotel Locations**

All the above hotels are in the immediate vicinity of Exit 127 off Interstate 40.

### **Don & Paula Adlong's Home**

Exit Interstate 40 at Exit 125. Head north on Hwy 65 toward Greenbrier. If approaching from the Little Rock direction (south), approximately 2.1 miles after exiting the interstate and immediately after passing Pickles Gap Craft Shop, turn left onto Lakeview Drive. Turn left on Tanager Trail approximately 1.5 miles after leaving Hwy.65.

If approaching from the Ft. Smith direction (west), approximately 2.3 miles after exiting the interstate and immediately after passing Pickles Gap Craft Shop, turn left onto Lakeview Drive. Turn left on Tanager Trail approximately 1.5 miles after leaving Hwy.65. You are there!

**The Adlong phone number is (501)329-6996 in case you get lost.**

### **Faulkner County Natural Resources Center**

Take Exit 127 off Interstate 40 onto Highway 64E. After exiting Interstate 40 turn right at the third traffic light onto Amity Road. Travel south for approximately 1 mile and you are there. The Faulkner County Natural Resources Center will be at the corner of Amity Road and Middle Road.