

Red River Rose Society Newsletter

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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. 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.

Next RRRS Meeting: Tuesday, September 16th in the Denison Public Library at 7:00. Pam Smith, who heads up the Farmers Branch Exhibition Garden, will be our guest speaker. Anyone interested in furthering his knowledge and skill in growing these most beautiful of flowers is invited to join them then.

Don't forget, you are also invited to join fellow RRRS members and Pam at Devolli's for dinner prior to the meeting.

Red River Rose Society – June Program

Richard McGowan

"I have never seen a lady not smile when she is given a rose," said guest speaker Jim Herbison at the June 19 meeting of the Red River Rose Society in the Denison Public Library. Jim's specialty is giving away his hybrid tea bouquets to nursing home residents, churches, and others in need of special thoughts. He shared with RRRS members his methods for cutting roses at their prime and preserving their beauty.

Roses are best cut in the early evening and the best roses to preserve are hybrid teas. He recommends Veteran's Honor, Fragrant Cloud, Vino=Rosso, Moonstone, Cajun Moon, and Sultry as the best varieties. Glassware needs to be cleaned with a mild bleach solution and a drop of bleach added to the water at a rate of one teaspoon per gallon. With proper treatment fresh roses can be kept beautiful for up to two weeks.

Jim is a retired chemical engineer in the oil industry who has lived all over the world. After filling up his own property in Dallas and his daughter's with roses, he recently acquired four acres in Denton which will be entirely devoted to his hobby of growing and giving away cut roses. And sometimes he wins prizes at rose shows, but he didn't talk much about that.

CALENDAR OF COMING EVENTS

- **Sep 16, RRRS Meeting, Denison Library 7:00 pm. Pam Smith, Landscape Manager for Farmers Branch Rose Gardens.**
- **Oct 11, Heritage Rose Gardens Seminars and Tours, Chamberville. Guest speakers will include: Dr George, Michael Shoup, Mark Shamblee and Stephen Scanniello, President of the Heritage Rose Foundation.**

CASHIN'S CORNER – NOT!

It's a good thing we don't have alligators in Texomaland. Bill seems to be up to his armpits in rose nurseries. Maybe we'll have a propagation progress report in September.

July Consulting Rosarian's Report

Carole Mainwaring

"I must have the flowers or die," said Dean Hole, first President of the Royal National Rose Society in Great Britain and author of A Book About Roses published in 1858. Reminiscent of Patrick Henry's, "Give me Liberty, or give me Death!" roses seem to inspire a similar kind of passion in rosarians. No matter the obstacle, rose growers are steadfast in their love of and devotion to roses and their culture. The month of July challenges us and our roses with heat, drought, and insects. But, we will prevail and, like Dean Hole described so eloquently, "enter, then the rose-garden when the first sunshine sparkles in the dew, and enjoy with thankful happiness one of the loveliest scenes on earth."

Sunshine and Shade

Heat stress symptoms (alone or in combination with moisture stress and salinity) occur in July when temperatures can often be over 85 degrees F. both day and night. Researchers have observed that plants suffer cellular damage at these high temperatures. Our location in Texas is shown on the American Horticultural Society's Heat Zone Map as Zone 8 meaning that we have on average 90-120 days per year over 86 degrees F. Soil moisture and salinity levels affect the rate of water

intake, and light and temperature levels affect the rate of water loss (transpiration). Soil salts in dry soils will cause root injury and resulting wilting of shoots and leaf scorch. Leaf scorch causes the edges of the leaf to turn brown and crispy. Heat stress is particularly noticeable after a period of cloudy, rainy weather promoting top growth, followed by hot, dry, sunny days. The blooms may become bull nosed with red blooms more likely to produce bull noses than lighter colored blooms. Petal edge burn is observable in red flowers caused by the buildup of heat in the petals. Again, this is most evident after extended periods of cloudy weather followed by hot, sunny days. Typically, roses slow down in the hot summer months and produce smaller and fewer blooms. Spray burn can occur when some pesticides like Rubigan and Daconil are used correctly on hot, sunny days. It can also occur with other pesticides that are not used properly. Never spray in the strong sun or when temperatures are above 85 degrees F. and always apply spray products as specified on the label. Also, never spray roses unless they are well watered. Mid to late afternoon shade is very desirable in growing roses with longer stems, darker and enlarged leaves, and larger bloom size and color. The amount of morning and early afternoon sun is enough to encourage good food production in the leaves, and the shade in the hottest part of the day prevents heat stress. Trees and other structures that provide late afternoon and evening shade and wind breaks that shelter roses from heat and wind damage can be helpful. Some Texas rosarians use shade cloth to screen their roses from the sun during the late afternoon and evening rather than relying on trees which will cause new problems like roots competing for water and nutrients with rose bushes, etc. My favorite weather link recommendation for forecasting the temperature, chance for precipitation, watering needs, wind speed, UV index and frost and freeze risks is

http://www.weather.com/outlook/homeandgarden/garden/weather/today/75476?from=pif_loc_lawn. By changing the zip code, you can see the weather forecast for your city.

Do remember to protect yourself from the sun and heat, also. Appropriate dress, adequate fluids, and pacing yourself in the garden will all help prevent heat stress, heat exhaustion and heatstroke. It's easy to overdo in July!



White Daconil deposits and associated dark-colored Daconil-incited burn on rose leaves.

<http://www.ag.auburn.edu/aaes/communications/circulars/circular329.pdf>

More About Water

Roses need water. Water is a major component of photosynthesis whereby plants make their own food. It is used for transpiration to help cool the leaves in the heat of the day. Water moves nutrients and carbohydrates throughout the plant. It also is important for strong stems. In the ARS magazine American Rose for July and August 2008 was an excellent article by Dr. Gary A. Ritchie titled The Most Important Summer Fertilizer. He said that in making food, roses lose water through transpiration. If the roots do not find water in the soil, they will tell the leaves to close their pores (called stomata) to stop water loss. Since open stomata are necessary for food production, the rose bush has to starve itself in order to retain water. If the soil stays dry, the stomata will stay closed and the bush will have to use its stored food reserves in order to survive. As these food reserves are used up, the leaves become small, the bush becomes spindly, and there will be few flowers. Dry soil also will form a surface layer which causes the water to run off rather than soak in the soil. In soil with great drainage, it is almost impossible to overwater. Often, in attempting to keep a rose's feet moist but not wet, we under water then blame spider mites for the bush's loss of leaves and possible death. A simple test for drainage is to dig a hole the size of a 2 lb. coffee can in the ground, fill it with water, and let it drain naturally. Then fill the hole again and see how long it takes to drain completely the second time. If the water is gone in one hour or less, you have excellent drainage. If it takes from 1-4 hours, your drainage is adequate. If it takes longer than four hours, your soil has a drainage problem. You would then need to amend the soil in the bed, make a raised bed, or plant roses in containers.

Water can be delivered to roses with soaker hoses, spray nozzles, drip emitters, overhead sprinklers, etc. Water should be delivered so that the soil does not become too dry between waterings. The question becomes how much is enough water. Rosemania has a great article that addresses this question written by Fermin Rodriguez at [www.rosemania.com/Water Water Water.htm](http://www.rosemania.com/Water_Water_Water.htm) Using his calculations and looking at all the variables that impact how much water a rose bush might need as mentioned in the June RRRS newsletter, I determined that I needed to water for different amounts of time depending on what equipment I was using and how many times I was watering each week. I used a gallon bucket and a stopwatch to calculate that overhead watering with a horizontal sprinkler head took the shortest amount of time per bush (1 hour total per week), DripWorks Full Circle Shrubber irrigation sprinklers the longest amount of time per bush (3 hours total per week), and soaker hoses wrapped twice around each bush took a little more time than overhead (1 ½ hours total per week).

Roses grown in containers will need to be watered most likely twice a day on the hottest days. Be careful when watering containers that you water slowly enough so that all of the soil gets wet. Any dry soil will shrink and crack pulling away from the side of the container. Once this happens the next watering will see the water run down the sides of the container leaving much of the soil dry. A harmful salt buildup may occur, also, because of poor watering. If you see a white residue on the soil surface or outside of the pot you will need to leach the soil by irrigating it with so much water that it runs freely from the drainage holes taking the salts with it.



Roses that were not watered or sprayed adequately—can they be saved?

July Rose Care Checklist

- 1. Fertilize roses lightly and water before and after you fertilize.**
- 2. Weed rose beds and control companion plants that might be competing with your rose bushes for space and nutrients.**
- 3. Spray regularly (especially for spider mites, if out of control) in early morning or late evening.**
- 4. Water often and deeply. Overhead watering will refresh the rose bush on hot days.**
- 5. Deadhead faded flowers but leave as much foliage on bush as possible.**
- 6. Maintain mulch depth on beds and rake up fallen leaves and blooms.**



Veterans' Honor Hybrid Tea in sunshine—a lovely scene!

How to "Rustle" Roses

I am glad to discover that more and more people are wanting to "rustle" (collect and share) old roses. At the beginning of the 20th century there were more than 10,000 varieties of these wonderful old roses in commerce. However, only two-thousand or so are still known to exist today. That is the bad news, but there is a silver lining on this cloud. There are certainly thousands more 'Old Roses'

waiting out there in the cemeteries and abandoned home sites to be discovered and rescued from extinction.

So I commend every actual and "would be" rose rustler and hope that more and more people will join me, and others like me, in the effort to discover and rescue some of these wonderful plants from the jaws of extinction.

It is great fun, and a very worthwhile (though occasionally misunderstood) activity. The whole focus is to collect and identify as many roses as possible, as quickly as possible. So I am always on the lookout for roses, and I always carry clippers, baggies, etc.

My rule of thumb, is-

if it is a rose that I am not utterly sure that I already have, I make cuttings and root them.

If it turns out that I have "rustled" a rose that I do not want, well, I can give it away and bless someone else. In all cases, I am very careful not to damage the original plant, and I always try to be a good citizen and good neighbor. The "rose rustlers" of the world do not need to have the animosity of the public rise up and prevent them from rescuing roses. So if you decide to become a "rustler", please read and observe the [Rules of Etiquette](#) for Rose Rustlers, and my suggestions on [How To Ask For Cuttings](#).

The tools of the trade include:

- (1) good sharp clippers,
- (2) gallon-sized zip-lock bags,
- (3) paper towels,
- (4) a pencil,
- (5) 3x5 cards for identification,
- (6) I recommend a notebook to keep records of where and when you found the rose, and
- (7) If you are really serious (like I am), take a good camera and get close-up pictures of each rose, its bloom, and its foliage. It usually takes 5-6 pictures to capture the details of a rose, and a macro-zoom lens let you get very sharp images at close range.

You can carry your "rose rustling kit" with you at all times. What I actually do is just take a notebook with me and write down the locations and tentative identifications as I drive around through life. Then periodically, I will set aside a day to go out collecting cuttings.

When you take cuttings, be sure to label them, using the pencil and 3x5 cards mentioned above. Use a pencil rather than a pen so the writing will not fade and run. There is a lot of information on the Texas Rose Rustler's page on how to make cuttings. Please check the following Web Page:

<http://www.texas-rose-rustlers.com/ms-pp-ct.htm>

The whole idea is to get fresh and properly aged materials and then keep them moist until you can root the cuttings. That is the reason for the zip-lock baggies and paper towels. The process seems complicated, but it is really easy:

- **Make the cuttings.**
- **Put them in the baggies.**
- **Make a label on a 3x5 card with a pencil.**
- **Put the label inside the baggie with the cuttings**
- **Wet a paper towel and put it inside the baggie to maintain almost 100 percent humidity.**
- **Press any excess air out of the baggie so that it will not take too much space.**
- **ZIP the baggie closed so that the moisture cannot escape.**
- **Be sure to put the baggie in a cool protected place out of the sun, and either plant the cuttings or refrigerate the unopened baggie as soon as possible. I carry a cheap Styrofoam cooler, with a little ice and newspaper, when I am rustling. I put the ice in the bottom with the sodas (double duty), then a layer of newspaper to keep the sodas cool and to keep the cuttings from getting frostbite, and then cuttings, and then the lid to exclude the sunlight.**

I like to refrigerate the cuttings for 24 - 48 hours in the crisper portion of the refrigerator. It turns out that if the temperature is below 50 degrees, fungal spores will not germinate readily. So by refrigerating the cuttings for a day or two, I can suppress the fungal spores and they go to sleep for the "winter". That gives the cuttings a head start on the fungus and it also permits the wound where you made the cutting to start forming a callus.

I really encourage you to take many more cuttings than you think that you will need, because you never know how many will strike roots.

Good luck, and - *"Keep on smelling the roses"*.



