

# Red River Rose Society Newsletter

Volume 1

June 2008

Number 5

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@cableone.net](mailto:rosemedic@cableone.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.

**June Guest Speaker and Program. Tuesday, June 17, 7:00 pm. Jim Herbison and his wife from the Collin County Rose Society have been growing hybrid tea’s (Florist roses) for many years . Jim and his wife have been donating/delivering their roses to assisted living homes, nursing homes, shut ins, etc. etc. They have become real pro’s in growing and harvesting roses for the less fortunate. Jim will present his program ‘Roses from the bush to the Vase’. Jim will share his secrets for extending the life of cut flowers including refrigeration. Also, Jim just won the Dallas Rose Spring Show this past month.**

Don’t forget, you are also invited to join RRRS members and the guest speaker at Devolli’s for dinner prior to the meeting.

RRRS May Meeting Review – Nancy Grella, Secy/Treas

**Speaker: Mike Becker filled the air with perfume—what a scentsational lecture! Wouldn’t it be a marvelous expedition to see the Valley of the Roses in Kazanluk, Bulgaria???? Mike definitely dazzled the group (again). I have never seen such beautiful and aromatic hands-on visual aids. My car smelled heavenly on the drive home—did you get a whiff of your handout??**

## Activities/Information/Announcements:

1. **New Membership Applications: 0**
2. **Society Membership: 41**
3. **Attendance: 20**
4. **Finances: As of 20 May: \$348.42 cash on hand and \$1398.42 in the bank.**

**5. Joe Abernathy's Shear Sharpening Service:** Joe has definitely found a project to fill his hours. Another \$ 45.00 was added to the coffers – to date Joe has raised \$235.00 for the RRRS!!!!

**6. Continuing Education Hours:** 1.5

**7. The RRRS Rose Sale on Saturday, April 26<sup>th</sup>** was a blooming success. RRRS sold out in 3 ½ hours and made a profit of \$589.00. The 55 roses Bill Cashin propagated looked a billion times better than the ones we purchased for the event. The question is—should we have an encore in April 2009?

**8. Propagation Class:** Bill Cashin is offering to hold a four-hour propagation class on Friday, 13 Jun 2008 at Eisenhower Birthplace Park. This is a marvelous class. Not only will you learn how to successfully propagate roses but you will also help build an inventory for next year's sale. So far the interested parties are: Sue Abernathy, Sandra & Jerry Haynes, Nancy Grella, Richard McGowan, Lacy Price, and the Jones'. If anyone else is interested please let Nancy Grella know. Start saving thirty-six 16 oz water bottles. (The bottoms need to be cut off for class and you need to rinse them in a chlorox solution to disinfect them). The cost will be nominal.

**9. 2009 ARS Calendar:** Nancy Grella introduced the possibility of the RRRS purchasing the 2009 ARS Calendar which features EarthKind roses. Nancy Grella proposed the RRRS buy some for resale. These calendars retail for \$13.97. ARS will ship as the calendars arrive and they are expected in June 08. Crunching the numbers looks like this:

60 calendars \$418.20 + \$25.50 (S&H) = \$443.70 or \$7.40/each sell for \$10.00  
**profit \$156.30**

120 calendars \$836.40 + \$25.50 (S&H) = \$861.90 or \$7.18/each sell for \$10.00  
**profit \$389.10**

Nancy spoke with Richard Green who said he would be amenable to sharing a corner of the Master Gardener's Arts Fest booth space so we could sell the calendars. The decision will be put to the RRRS members at the June meeting. A very valid question was raised on whether or not RRRS needs money. Right now, we are financially in excellent shape. Expenditures in 2007 totaled \$860.58; and, to date in 2008 we have spent or are obligated to spend \$605.00.

**10. Bill Cashin** proposed substituting the RRRS 21 Oct 08 meeting with the program scheduled for Saturday 11 Oct 08 in McKinney. McKinney's program starts off with a morning of presentations from Dr Steve George, Mike Shoup, Mark Chamblee and Stephen Scaniello. The afternoon is filled a tour of the Chambersville Heritage Rose Garden. The response from the members was positive. More information will be disseminated as it becomes available.

**11. Bill Cashin** asked the group if the RRRS should sponsor a rose garden tour in the Spring of 2009 or if they would be interested in holding a function at a RRRS members home to view that garden. Be thinking about it—we will decide at the June meeting.

**12. Bill Cashin** thanked Sue Abernathy for opening up her rose garden on 4 May. She & Joe have invested a ton of sweat equity into the garden and it shows!! It is gorgeous. I am sure that all of you who took advantage of Sue's hospitality would agree.

**Raffle Winner:** Wanda Wilson won a “Double Gold” miniflora rose. Remember, to be entered into the raffle, you must bring a cut rose to the meeting. Bill Cashin is on the prowl to get more prizes for this activity. Thanks to all of you who brought in roses—they were gorgeous and the Library Staff really enjoys them.

**Drawing Winners:** Sandra Haynes took home a “Millie Walters”; Gordon Green laid claim to a “Moonlight Scentsation”; and, Sue Abernathy got the ‘I grow EarthKind Roses’ cap.

## **2008 Calendar of 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.**
- **Nov 18, RRRS Meeting, Denison Library 7:00 pm. Jack Walters from Kimbrew-Walters Nursery in Tyler Texas.**

Consulting Rosarian's Report

**Generous June!**

**“When insects take over the world, we hope they will remember with gratitude how we fed them so well on all our best and most beautiful roses.” (Primrose Fox quoted in the Sydney Australia Regional Rose News) Sometimes it seems an uphill battle to keep all the diseases, insects, critters, and weather from ruining our roses. June brings us new challenges. It also brings us new joys. Our roses will continue to bloom their hearts out for us this month in return for a little of our time and attention. While the blooms may not be as plentiful nor as large during the Texas summer heat, the bush will do all it can to keep us happy if we keep it happy!**

### **Fungus Amongus**

**When deadheading, pay close attention to the health of your rose stems/canes. If you notice canes that are yellow or have red spots that later become brown, bluish-purple or black, take immediate action by pruning well below (at least two-five inches) the infected area. These areas may be sunken and cracked with purple edges, and the leaves may be yellow, spotted, or wilted. You may need to prune all the way back to the bud union or crown to get rid of all the disease on the cane. Cankers that are allowed to continue unchecked may reach downward into the crown and cause the entire rose bush to wilt and die. You usually see this problem on older, established roses that are not thriving as they once did; on roses weakened**

by diseases like blackspot; on roses that have been covered with wet mulch or soil in winter; or on young, bare root roses. Several different fungi cause rose cankers. The fungus invades cuts or wounds on the stem caused by pruning, canes rubbing together from wind, freeze damage, hail, insect and rodent injuries, etc. during wet and humid weather. The canker may expand throughout the cane in all directions killing the tissues that transport water and nutrients. Disinfecting your pruners between cuts is very important if you are fighting this disease. Remember to prune only in dry weather and avoid handling or working among your bushes when the canes and leaves are wet to prevent the spreading of this infection. More information and pictures of rose cankers can be seen at <http://www.sactorose.org/ipm/83canker.htm> <http://www.extension.uiuc.edu/~vista/abstracts/a626.html>



**Canker on stem**

### **Small But Mitey!**

Hot, dry weather brings the mighty mite—a most unwelcome garden visitor. Look for yellow leaves on the lower third of your bush. Be sure you continue to use your water wand every other day blasting the undersides of rose leaves where the mite is found. Mites (not really insects but related to the spider) love temperatures above 70 degrees and will suck the life out of rose leaves causing the leaves to look bronzed, curl, and drop. Silky webbing may be found on the lower surfaces of the leaves or on new growth. Rose bushes become weak and will not produce many blooms. Spraying for mites will help but remember to change miticides occasionally to prevent the mites from becoming resistant to a particular chemical. This year I am going to try a new miticide called Akari which is supposed to stop the feeding of mites immediately and halt the laying of eggs. It is a contact miticide. Information about Akari can be found at Rosemania: <http://rosemania.com/>

## **Oh, Those Critters!**

**When I put in my first rose bed, I hadn't planned to provide gourmet meals for rabbits, deer, gophers, voles, and snails. Six years later, I have tried most "remedies" to discourage or eliminate such pests and found few to be very satisfactory. I have had no success with fox urine to discourage rabbits and limited success with castor oil pellets for voles and moles. I bought battery-operated mole chaser units which didn't work for me, either. Snail bait was successful as long as I remembered to reapply it during the growing season. Sprays didn't last very long and were costly to keep buying. My husband and I have live trapped, poisoned, and shot our way through several summers with some success, but I can't watch a Disney classic animated film with a clear conscience any longer! My roses grow so much better in the ground rather than in pots because of our sandy loam soil; and we both like looking across the fields unhindered by stockade fences. We are finally reaching a point now where we tolerate some damage and just replant. If you have any remedies that have worked for you, do let me know at [cmainwak5@verizon.net](mailto:cmainwak5@verizon.net). Thanks! I'll share ideas in a future column.**

## **Rosy Recommendations**

**If you enjoy photography, you might consider entering the American Rose Society photo contest this year with the deadline for 2008 of November 30. You can submit either slides or digital photographs. A complete set of rules and an official entry blank will be included in the July/August ARS magazine American Rose. The ARS website showing previous rules and winners is <http://www.ars.org/Contests/photo-contest.html> The Dallas Rose Society also added three photography classes to its rose show this spring. These three classes were: photo of a rose garden, photo of a rose (close up) and photo of an abstract rose. Photography will be part of their fall rose show in October, too, and will be open to anyone who wishes to enter. Mike Becker is Show Chairman and can be reached at: 817-442-0143 or [becker.mike@att.net](mailto:becker.mike@att.net)**

### **June Rose Care Checklist:**

- 1. Fertilize roses this month with liquid feedings including fish emulsion**
- 2. Weed and clean beds (so much fun in the sun!)**
- 3. Spray for diseases on a regular basis and insects as needed**
- 4. Water, water, water.**
- 5. Deadhead spent blooms but leave as much foliage on the bush as possible**



**Climbing Iceberg to left, yellow miniature King's Mountain in container, pinkish-white hybrid musk Penelope in background, and red Knock Out roses to right.**

## **Water—Your “Key” To Success**

**By Marty Pawlikowski, CFFRS Consulting Rosarian  
Central Florida**

It may not be exciting to read about watering your roses.... But at this time of year it's about the most important thing you can do – water. Like all living things, your roses cannot survive without adequate water. With summer's high temperatures, water is extremely significant for your roses' survival.

Noted Rosarian, Doc Allcott, wrote in the Wind Chimes several years ago that it has been estimated that three gallons of water are lost in a single day through transpiration. Transpiration is the passage of water vapor from the leaves through a membrane or pore. In a rose bush, the pore is the stomata located on the underside of the leaf. There are hundreds of stomata's on the underside of each leaf. When we are outside on a hot summer day we sweat (or should I say perspire)—and similarly, roses do the same thing through transpiration. Like us, our roses need a continual supply of water to replace the moisture lost through transpiration. High temperatures and full sun accelerate transpiration, depleting moisture rapidly, thus requiring more water.

So how much water does your rose garden need to flourish during the summer? Everyones growing conditions are different based on variables including soil type and contents, amount of sun received, whether the beds abut paved or turf areas, the quantity, type and depth of mulch, type of irrigation system, etc. These variables result in different water requirements. Simply put, the amount of water you need to apply to your garden is variable dependent upon your particular micro climate and the amount of rainfall you receive. One way of determining how much water your particular soil needs is to pull back the mulch, dig down in the soil a little, and pick up a handful of soil. Squeeze the soil in our hand. How well has it held the moisture from yesterdays or even this morning's watering? The soil should feel evenly moist, and when squeezed in your hand should form a mass that easily crumbles. Use common sense – if the soil

shows no signs holding together, then water more frequently or increase the quantity of water applied. Remember, deep thorough watering is preferable to light frequent watering as it encourages strong, deep roots. On the other hand, if when squeezed, the soil forms a soggy mass, decrease the quantity and or frequency of watering. Typically the months of July and August (lucky them) are considered 'rain season'. It is important to monitor the amount of water your roses receive. As a general rule our roses need between 2 – 3 inches of water per week. In periods of hot, dry temperatures, even more may be needed depending on the size of the bushes and the variables in your microclimate. Don't assume that rainfall will furnish all the water your roses need: check the soil to be sure, and set up a rain gauge to monitor rainfall amounts. Typical of central Florida, it may be raining cats and dogs where you work and be sunny without a drop of rain in your garden or visa versa. It is important that we conserve this natural resource and using a rain gauge will help eliminate unnecessary watering.

Check the depth of your watering to make sure that the moisture is reaching the root system, which for established Fortuniana grafted roses, is quite large. If water penetration of the soil is no more than 8 inches deep, longer or more frequent watering sessions are needed. Remember Fortuniana roots are generally in the top 14 inches of the soil and very far reaching. Shallow watering will encourage shallow rooted plants. Make sure the water is getting down into the entire root zone. When watering a bed of roses try to water the entire bed – that's where Fortuniana roots are located (throughout the whole bed – not only under the drip line of the bush.)

Watering is also important to bring oxygen into the soil. As water moves through the soil oxygen follows behind filling the spaces. Rain reportedly places more oxygen in the soil than any other means. Without oxygen in the soil our roses will decline and eventually die. New rose growers are often concerned with the saying 'roses do not like wet feet'. As a result they underwater, believing that too much water harm the 'feet' (roots) of their roses. It is true that roses do not like to be grown in low lying areas where water tends to stand. The oxygen needed for healthy growth will not be available in water logged areas. If your rose beds have adequate drainage you really do not need to worry about 'wet feet'. Over watering, or too much rainfall, can, and even when adequate drainage is present, temporarily, deplete oxygen in the soil. The soil becomes waterlogged and the oxygen is displaced. Your roses provide the following indicators: too little water will cause the leaves to be limp and sagging: too much water will starve the rose of oxygen and its leaves will yellow and drop off.

There are many ways to provide water for the roses from hand watering (a water wand is good because it gently deposits a large amount of water in a limited space for easy access to the roots), to various drip systems or even individual bubblers for each plant. The so called soaker hoses can do a good job inexpensively but only if allowed to run long enough for the water to reach the root zone. A rose plant needs water to the full depth of its roots (assume 14 inches), in enough quantity to keep soil constantly moist but not waterlogged.

Overhead sprinkling is a great way to cool off and refresh your bushes on a hot summer afternoon. Whenever there's dust or air pollution, leaves benefit from overhead watering every week or so, both to remove the dust and wash away some insect pests,

especially aphids. After several minutes under overhead sprinklers, you'll be amazed at how refreshed your bushes look! Right about now you are probably thinking, 'I've always heard 'don't get the leaves wet!! Water on the leaves is not a bad thing – it will not spread blackspot if the leaves are wet for a short time and if your bushes breeze dry before nightfall. This mid-day overhead watering is only to cool down and wash off the foliage. Most of the water applied overhead is lost to evaporation and will not reach down into the root zone.

Water is life sustaining to both plants and animals – both are dependent on water, and cannot survive without it. The best way to care for your roses this summer is to give them adequate water. Water is the key ingredient to growing healthy roses over the summer months.