

Red River Rose Society Newsletter

Volume 1

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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@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.

RRRS February Meeting Review – Nancy Grella, Secy/Treas

Mark Steljes from Roses Inc, Tulsa wowed the crowd again. His demonstration of pruning generated gasps from the audience. He highlighted the Four D's of pruning: remove the Dead, Diseased, Damaged and Dinky. Additionally, Mark discussed some of the products he uses in his business and he made them available for sale (many members took advantage—it looked like a super sale at Belks). Mark also reviewed some of the items he keeps in his pruning bag: ruler, staple gun, paper towels, ties, magnifying glass, glue, gloves, screw driver/pliers, trash bags, Chlorox wipes, etc. On Wednesday, Mark held a pruning demo at Eisenhower Birthplace.

Six new membership applications received from: Michael & Mary Jones; Alfred & Laura Jones; Kathy Harris; Carole Linsteadt; Ann & Edward Supina; Ilene Cook; and Carole Mainwaring. Remember, all members joining in 2008 will receive an EarthKind Rose (the 2007 charter members received a miniature rose from Jack Walters).

Nine members renewed for 2008. Forty members and guests attended the meeting.

Finances: As of 20 Feb: \$235.00 cash on hand (with \$200.00 earmarked as honorariums for our upcoming guest speakers). There is \$799.42 in the bank (Bill Cashin was given a check for Chamblees to reserve the roses for our plant sale. Thanks to Joe Abernathy's shear sharpening service, \$50.00 was added to the coffers; and Bill thanked the Sherman Garden Club for giving the RRRS \$25.00.

Bill Cashin urged everyone to pay their 2008 dues. **Deadline is 1 March.** Bill Cashin asked for volunteers to help the RRRS broaden its scope of services. At the 1 Feb meeting of the Executive Board it was noted that some members may not be reading their emails and therefore, don't know about the upcoming activities. Suggested we have a **Telephone Chair** whose main objective is to disseminate info and meeting reminders via a courtesy phone call. Cashin asked for a volunteer for this position.

Sue Abernathy has been working hard to get the RRRS into local nurseries. The schedule is:

Green Acres	Saturday Mar 29th	11:00 – 1:00
Lowe's	Saturday Apr 5th	10:00 – 12:00
Twin Oaks	Saturday May 10th	11:00 – 1:00

Sue also said that GCMG members may use these hours toward their annual volunteer requirement. What a deal!!!!

Nancy Grella floated the idea of holding a photo contest with judging at the October meeting. Judging will be done by a non-partisan person. The categories of judging will mirror those of the ARS. At the March meeting those in attendance will 'vote' on whether or not this event will be held.

Drawing Winners: Donna Bedgood and Carole Linsteadt (new member) won Liberty Bells; the Supinas (new members) took home the *The Rose for Today...Growing Beautiful Mini-Florals* by Sean McCann.

Next RRRS Meeting: Tuesday, March 18th at 7:00 in the Denison Public Library. **Dr Kevin Ong** from the Extension Service will discuss "**Infectious Diseases of Roses in North Texas.**" Don't forget, you are also invited to join RRRS members and the guest speaker at Davoli's for dinner prior to the meeting.

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.

WHAT TO DO IN YOUR GARDEN IN MARCH – by Bill Cashin

March is perhaps the busiest month in our rose gardens.

- If you haven't finished pruning, now is the time to get rid of the dead, diseased, damaged, dinky canes, crossing canes and open the middle of the rose bushes to improve air circulation.
- Clean up your rose beds of all leaves that may have fallen there which may harbor fungi and pest eggs.
- I like to wait to about the middle of the month when the soil has warmed up a bit to add a fresh 3" layer of mulch in the rose beds
- Toward the end of March I like to feed each rose bush about a cup of Alfalfa Pellets and water them in well.
- Soil Test, If you didn't get your soil test done in January or February I recommend doing it as soon as you can.
- Now is a good time to plant bare root roses, container roses, or transplant roses.

Chambersville Heritage Rose Garden Spring Garden Tour April 6, 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 6. 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.

2008 Calendar of Events

- March 18, RRRS Meeting Denison Library, Dr. Kevin Ong, 'Infectious Diseases of Roses.'
- March 29, Green Acres Nursery, Van Alstyne, 11:00 – 1:00. Answer rose related questions.
- March 29, Fannin County Home and Garden Show.
- April 5, Lowe's, 10:00 – 12:00, Answer rose related questions.
- April 6, Spring Tour of the Heritage Rose Garden In Chamberville.
- April 12 and 13, Collin County Rose Society Spring Garden Tour
- April 15, RRRS Meeting Denison Library, Jim Sanford, 'Miniature Roses.'
- April 19 and 20, Chamblee's Nursery Open House and Rose Workshop.
- April 26, Red River Rose Society EarthKind Rose Sale
- 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.'
- June 17, RRRS Meeting Denison Library 7:00 pm, Jim Herbison, 'Extending the life of your cut roses.'
- May 30-June 1st, ARS National Miniature Rose Show, OK City.

RRRS to Sell EarthKinds for Principle and for Profit - Richard McGowan

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 27 April open in your calendar for the RRRS.

Distant Drums

July 2006

DISTANT DRUMS

- and the remarkable [Griffith Buck](#)





One of the most fascinating series of roses is the line of winter-hardy shrubs developed by Dr. Griffith Buck.

Griffith Buck became interested in roses during his teen years due to his 'pen pal', Pedro Dot of Spain. After his discharge from the military in December of 1945, he entered Iowa State College in January of 1946. There he enrolled in the horticulture program. Griffith Buck was a researcher and professor of horticulture at Iowa State University from 1948 to 1985 where he hybridized not only nearly 90 rose varieties, but also 15 varieties of geraniums and a heliotrope. His reputation grew as a widely recognized rose hybridizer and respected member of the rose growing community.

He was trying to hybridize winter hardy roses - rose that could withstand a prairie winter and bloom lushly during the prairie summer. He began using *Rosa laxa* in his hybridizing program though it had barely been used in breeding up until that time. After 3 or 4 years, Buck realized his first hybrids were taking several years to set on blooms and the difference from the original *R. laxa* was fairly insignificant. In his work, Buck noted that since many characteristics don't even develop until maturity, it could take 3 to 5 years for each test plant to mature and in some cases even bloom for the first time. Often the resulting plants were not worth the wait but still required years of study before being discarded.

From a speech Buck made in 1985, he explained, "While I didn't start to develop roses that were disease resistant, I had inherently selected for disease resistance by the manner in which I made the selections in the field. My normal procedure was to grow the seedlings in the greenhouse one year until they got big enough, and plant them out the second spring. The only attention they would get would be water and cultivation. I didn't spray for disease. If they couldn't hold on to their foliage, they wouldn't properly mature, and therefore they wouldn't overwinter well. In a sense I was selecting for those that could hold on to their foliage in spite of becoming infected with foliage diseases."

'Distant Drums', a mauve-blend (with plenty of tan) shrub, was introduced in 1984. The seed parent was 'September Morn' (apricot blend grandiflora, 1981), the pollen came

from 'The Yoeman' (orange-pink shrub, 1969). Both parents are fragrant, and Distant Drums has a very strong perfume - myrrh and anise. The blooms are medium sized, double, with a ruffled, rosette form. The color is intensely mauvey bronze when first open, slowly blending to tannish mauve, and finishing a yellowed lavender.

Dr. Buck was actually allergic to rose pollen - and since he could smell this dusky rose while standing several feet away - he named it 'Distant Drums'.

Dr. Buck retired at the age of 70, and soon after his breeding stock was destroyed. Many of his varieties survived because of the Buck's personal collection and many of the friends given these plants offered cuttings back. They were then collected at the Minnesota Arboretum where they were carefully tested and cataloged.

Today, collections of the Buck Roses can also be seen at the Iowa Arboretum (Luther, IA), Reiman Gardens (Ames, IA), Bentonsport Gardens (Bentonsport, IA) and Elko County Rose Garden (Elko, Nevada). There are over 60 industry sources where the Buck Roses may be purchased including nurseries in the US, Canada, England, New Zealand, Denmark, Norway, and India. Griffith Buck passed away March 28, 1991 at the age of 75, but he left a legacy of beauty through his roses.

'Distant Drums' makes a rounded bush to about 3 1/2 feet in the mid west, larger in less extreme parts of the country. It is grown for its fantastic fragrance, for its superb disease resistance and winter hardiness, and the intriguing color.

Diseases of Roses - Cercospora

Cercospora Leafspot in Roses

by Jackie Mullen, Plant Pathologist



Symptoms

Cercospora leaf spot is characterized by the appearance of numerous tiny maroon to purple oval spots scattered randomly across the leaf surface. Later, the center of the spot turns tan to almost gray in color while the margin of the spot remains maroon to dark purple. Heavily spotted leaves will turn yellow and prematurely shed. Because Cercospora-damaged roses typically lose most of their leaves, this disease can easily be confused with blackspot.



Disease Cycle

Very little specific information is available concerning the development of Cercospora leaf spot on roses. However, the same warm wet weather patterns, which favor the spread and development of blackspot, will also start outbreaks of this disease. Beginning in early spring, spores of the causal fungus Cercospora are spread by air currents to the newly expanded leaves. Free water on leaf surfaces triggers spore germination and infection of the leaves. Frequent rain showers or possibly overhead watering favors continued disease spread until the first hard frost in the fall.

Control

Currently, selected shrub and ground cover roses appear to be the main targets of Cercospora leaf spot. The reaction of these roses to Cercospora leaf spot is summarized in the following table.

Reaction of Selected Shrub and Ground Cover Roses to Cercospora Leaf Spot

- Susceptible: Petite Pink Scotch, The Fairy, Fushia Meidiland, Carefree Delight, White Flower Carpet, Happy Trails, and Flower Carpet
- Highly Resistant to Immune: Jeepers Creeper, Ralph's Creeper, Royal Bonica, Nearly Wild, Betty Prior, Sevillana, Magic Carpet, Easy Livin', Cherry Meidiland, Pearl Meidiland, Rosa mutabilis, Rosa wichuraiana, First Light, Bonica, Carefree Wonder, Sea Foam, Pink Grootendorst, Nozomi, Red Cascade, Mystic Meidiland, Hansa, Double Delight

Source : Hagan, A. K., R. Akridge, and J. Olive. 1999. A rose is not just a rose. *Al. Exp. Sta. Auburn University Highlights of Agriculture* 46(3):18-20

Note: Many of the roses resistant to Cercospora leaf spot are susceptible to blackspot. Although no fungicides have been screened for the control of Cercospora leaf spot on rose, a number have activity against other Cercospora diseases on other woody ornamentals. Fungicides, such as Daconil, Immunox, Zyban, and Cleary's 3336, which are recommended as weekly treatments for blackspot control, should also provide good protection from Cercospora leaf spot when applied on the same schedule.

Follow the label on each container for recommended application rates and treatment intervals for the above fungicides.

Diseases of Roses - Blackspot

What is Blackspot?

By [Danny Craft](#), Charleston, WV



Symptoms

Blackspot is a plant disease caused by a fungus (*Diplocarpon rosae*) that is generally damaging and usually a source of major problems. Blackspot looks like circular black spots with irregular edges on the top side of the leaves. The tissue around the spots or the entire leaf may turn yellow and the infected leaf may drop off. Plants with a severe case may lose all of their leaves if not treated. Flower production is often at a minimum and the quality of bloom suffers badly.

Biology

High humidity is one factor that helps the spores to germinate. The spores germinate in 9-18 days on a moist leaf at 70-80°F temperatures. The spores can be spread by splashing water and by the Rosarians themselves. The spores are wind-borne only in water drops. The spores can be spread on clothing, tools or even your hands, but the way it is spread most often is by infected leaves that have wintered over in the rose bed.



Control

Blackspot can be satisfactorily controlled by spraying with a good fungicide every seven to ten days (read the label and follow the directions). There are also a number of measures that should be taken to keep from getting and/or controlling the disease. Avoid watering in a way that splashes water up on the leaves and avoid watering late in the evening with a hose or sprayer. Make sure to clean up the beds completely of all leaves or stems to help keep the disease from wintering over. Always have good ventilation through the plant and good soil drainage. Apply fungicides after a rain to keep down spores. Put the plants on a spray schedule and spray with a fungicide that gives good control, such as, Manzate®, Maneb®, Daconil® and Lime-Sulfur compounds.

There are also organic methods of controlling Blackspot. Baking soda has been tried as a cure and as a preventative measure. It was found that using baking soda and spray oil mixed with water as a spray can damage roses if it is not mixed in the proper

proportions. It was also found that baking soda gave only moderate control of Blackspot, but appeared to be effective as a preventative. There is a new product coming on the market that has been used by our local Rose Society that does show promise. This product is derived from the Neem tree. It is called "Rose Defense" by The Green Light Co.

One other way to prevent Blackspot is to plant roses that are disease resistant. There are some roses that have some resistance built into their genes. But remember, they are **Resistant** not **Immune** . They still need to be sprayed on a regular schedule.

Roses should be kept on a regular spray schedule regardless of which method is used. Remember, prevention is the key to controlling Blackspot.