

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@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 April Meeting Review – Nancy Grella, Secy/Treas

Speaker: Jimmy Sanford shared his knowledge and passion for miniature roses; and he graciously shared his bounty with the members. My absolute favorite was ‘Teddy Bear’ because of the russet color—we have to get Bill Cashin propagating this one!!! Jimmy’s favorite growers for purchases are Morris, Bridges and Nor’east.

Activities/Information/Announcements:

1. **New Membership Applications: 0**
2. **Society Membership: 41**
3. **Attendance: 27**
4. **Finances: As of 16 Apr: \$333.42 cash on hand and \$754.42 in the bank. Bill Cashin was given a check for the Chamblees pickup,**
5. **Joe Abernathy’s Shear Sharpening Service: Joe has definitely found a project to fill his hours. Another \$ 60.00 was added to the coffers – to date Joe has raised \$170.00 for the RRRS!!!!**
6. **Continuing Education Hours: 1.0**
Bill Cashin reminded everyone of the picnic being held Sunday, April 20th, at 12:30, at the Chambersville Heritage Rose Garden. To date 250 roses have been planted with another 85 roses scheduled to be put into the ground this summer. Chambersville Heritage Rose Garden is one of only 4 recognized heritage rose gardens.
7. **Sue Abernathy has been working hard to get the RRRS into local nurseries. The successful schedule was completed at Twin Oaks, Saturday May 10th.**
8. **The RRRS Rose Sale was on Saturday, April 26th. Jerry Haynes produced a poster. Bill Cashin & Richard McGowan drove to Chamblees on 16 Apr to pick up our stock.**
9. **Lacy Price thanked the RRRS for donating two Knockout Roses for the Fairview Memorial Garden that the GCMG maintain. These replace the roses that were stolen around Easter.**

Raffle Winner: Gerald Frimann won a gift certificate to Devolli's. 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.

Drawing Winners: Max Owens and Michael Jones picked up Climbing Pinkies; and, Terry Irvin took home the *The Rose for Today...Growing Beautiful Mini-Florals* by Sean McCann.

Adjournment: 8:15 pm

Next RRRS Meeting: Tuesday, May 20th at 6:30 in the Denison Public Library.

PLEASE NOTE THE EARLY TIME – 6:30!!!!

Mike Becker will present “The Story of Perfumes: Roses & Other Fragrances”. We are very fortunate to have Mike come to us with this 1 ½ hour presentation which has been given at the ARS National Convention. 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 first EarthKind Rose Sale was a huge success under the leadership of Richard McGowan.



Richard, Nancy Grella, June Boyett, and Jerry and Sandra Haynes sold over 100 roses in a little over 4 hours. Jerry Haynes' poster of EarthKind roses was a fantastic draw and excellent educational tool-- it really helped sell the roses. Now that is what I call a first class sales team. After expenses we earned 589.00 from the sale. Thanks to Gerald Frimman for the great pictures!





Cashin's Cache

May is such a great month for all flowers in the plant kingdom especially roses. Jimmy Sanford our April speaker certainly caught everyone by surprise when he opened up a cooler and out popped these roses!





We will have the roses for our new members, Alfred and Laura Weisberg, Kathy Harris, Carole Linsteadt, Ilene Cook, and Linda Mortimer at the May meeting. Also, we will have the roses from door prizes for Cindy Baugus, Donna Bedgood, and Carole Linsteadt. Please make an effort to make the May meeting and pickup your roses.



May Guest Speaker and Program. We are very fortunate to have Mike Becker from the Dallas Rose Society back again. Mike attended the very first meeting of the Red River Rose Society and helped us get off the ground with a full head of steam. “The program is 1hr15min to 1hr40min depending on how many questions and

member participation involved, since it is interactive. The program title is "Perfume: Rose and Other Fragrances". The program covers the history of perfume with actual samples for people to try from the ancient perfumes of Cleopatra, to the medieval perfumes of Elizabeth I to modern perfumes. The emphasis is on the rose and its fragrance uses. I'll have sample perfumes of history, rose water for people to try, rose candies and jams to sample and eat. I'll also have handouts on perfumes and rose fragrance types. I think everyone will enjoy the program. Currently, so far as I know, no one else in the USA is even doing anything like this."

June Guest Speaker and Program. 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.

Last but not least! If anyone is interested in locating, identifying and propagating found roses please see me after the May meeting.

Say Thanks to the Library with ROSES!

Gerald Frimann won a free dinner at Devolli's for his library rose in April. Let's try to fill the library with roses this month. Remember it does not have to be a bouquet just a single rose in a paper cup will work fine and get you into the drawing for a free ?????????????? Follow the directions below.

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.

Red Lady

Hybrid Tea

A mild tea like fragrance

Bill Cshin

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.

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.

2008 Calendar of Events

- **May 20, RRRS Meeting Denison Library 6:30 pm, Mike Becker, 'The Story of Perfumes; Roses and other Fragrances.'**
- **May 30-June 1st, 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.'**
- **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.**

Consulting Rosarian's Report

Hooray for May!

If ever there is a month in which we should stop and smell the roses, then it is May. We've pruned and mulched and planted and sprayed and fertilized—now let's take some time to just sit and enjoy our roses. Open your garden to family and friends, give blooms away to the elderly or sick, and take lots of photos to share with others. Ann Reilly writes in Enjoying Roses of a Persian poet in the 13th century who said that "a rose may bloom for only four or five days, but a rose garden will bloom forever". Indeed! I was three when I first fell in love with roses growing in a garden across the fence from our yard.

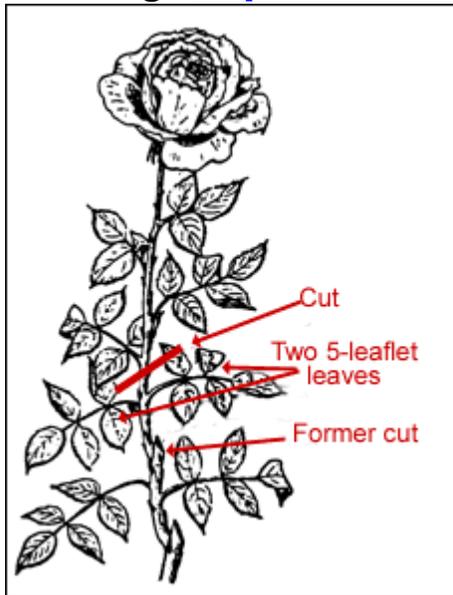
Two elderly sisters lived next door to us until they had to sell their house and move away. Their garden became a parking lot when the house was divided into small apartments, but to this day I can still smell their roses. I doubt the sisters knew what an effect their garden would have on me. Who's memory will your garden live in?

To make that memory as perfect as possible, let's focus on a few suggestions that will keep our roses healthy and happy:

Two heads are better than one!

Once your rose blooms fade, it is time to deadhead. While there are some roses that are self-cleaning (will shed spent blooms on their own), most roses will need to be deadheaded to encourage quicker rebloom and stronger stem growth. Deadheading also will prevent hips from forming too early in the season on those repeat blooming varieties of roses that form hips. The standard advice is to cut the spent bloom back to the nearest five leaflet where the stem is at least as thick as a pencil. It is best to make sure the swollen bud eye points to the outside of a bush that grows upright so that the center of the plant doesn't become too crowded with canes and leaves. Keeping the center of the bush open will allow more air circulation to help prevent fungal diseases from gaining a foothold. Use common sense when it comes to deadheading—there may be times when pruning to an inside facing bud eye is necessary to maintain the shape of the bush. Also, the first deadheading of the season might only go down the stem to the first three leaflet to keep as many leaves on the bush as possible. These leaves will be providing the food for the plant to continue producing blooms and growing stems and canes all summer long. First year plants should be deadheaded lightly by taking only the bloom and a little of the stem off the bush. In fact, some rosarians knuckle prune their bushes in a very quick manner by snapping just the blooms off the bush or sliding their thumb and index finger down the neck (peduncle) of the bloom until they feel a bump or knuckle which most roses have. They will then snap the bloom off at this point. I never pull off just the blooms because I don't like to see all those headless stems poking up from the bush, but I do knuckle prune down to the bump my youngest bushes and all bushes when I am overwhelmed with faded blooms and have no time to deadhead properly. Know the feeling? Remember to seal the cane ends with waterproof glue if you have cane borers in your garden. If you ever

see a hole drilled down the center of a cane that has been cut in the past, you have cane borers. Some excellent advice on deadheading roses can be found on the American Rose Society webpage under More About Roses, ARS site search on deadheading roses, and by then choosing: http://www.ars.org/About_Roses/pruning.html



When one head is enough.

All once blooming roses should be pruned right after they finish blooming in the spring unless you want hips to form for a fall display. You will not want to prune them in the fall or spring of next year because many of them bloom on one- or two-year-old wood and will produce no blooms that year. Remove all dead and diseased growth and cut back no more than a third of the bush since some once bloomers resent heavy pruning and sulk. Do you have a bush like this?

Know Your Roots.

I highly recommend keeping a journal of each rose you buy, graft, bud, or hybridize. Record the rootstock, where and when you bought or grew it, and what successes or failures you have had with sprays, fertilizers, pruning, etc. Much of this information we will attempt to keep in our mental files, but I have found this method to be less reliable for me as I mature! I have many of my 150+ roses on fortuniana rootstock because of my sandy loam soil, and I have found them to dislike heavy pruning in the spring and deadheading which removes too many leaves in the summer. I usually prune my fortuniana rootstock roses down no more than 1/3 their height in

spring and deadhead often to keep the bush from growing like Jack's beanstalk during the summer. Fortuniana bushes also need staking because the shallow roots do not hold the bush in the ground well in high winds. They need more watering and more fertilizing since they have more feeder roots. Winter protection is also more necessary since the roots are shallow and more sensitive to colder temperatures. Since I have multiples of the same rose variety on different rootstocks, the challenge becomes remembering which bush has which rootstock where in the garden! Have you tried fortuniana rootstock yet, and have your experiences been different?

What's For Dinner?

When everything is looking just too perfect in the garden, you need to be even more resolute about your fertilizing and spraying. Modern roses are heavy feeders and will need regular feeding during their growing season. I alternate fertilizers weekly or bi-monthly having already applied my spring alfalfa tea (http://www.ars.org/About_Roses/fertilizing_alfalfa.html) supplemented with iron, Superthrive, urea, muriate of potash, and Epsom salts; fishmeal; kelp meal (seaweed); 9 month granular fertilizer (to help decompose the mulch so it will not rob nutrients from the rosebushes); and a balanced liquid fertilizer. I do not apply alfalfa as a meal or pellet after last year when every rabbit living near Ravenna came to dine in my garden! The sight and smell of alfalfa tea will gag both humans and rabbits alike, but the roses love it! What do your roses crave? I am following the recommendations my soil test reports made and will add lime soon to the soil along with more calcium but no phosphorus for awhile. I received soil test reports from Texas A&M at <http://soiltesting.tamu.edu/> and a new company I tried this year called Texas Plant and Soil Lab: <http://www.txplant-soillab.com/> I tried both labs since they have different testing procedures and found both reports to be quite helpful.

An Ounce of Prevention....

Spraying for fungal diseases should be a regular part of your garden routine, also, if you choose to plant roses that are not disease resistant because curing a problem is much harder than preventing it in the first place. When choosing the right chemicals to use, be sure you know whether the product will actually cure or prevent only the

disease, how it should be delivered, and how much to use per gallon. Always wear protective clothing to include goggles, respirator, gloves, long sleeved shirts and pants, and proper shoes as suggested on the label. Dispose of left over chemicals correctly and/or store properly. Do you avoid chemicals by planting EarthKind roses?



Magnified adult thrips



Thrip damage on a rose bud.

Insect pests at this time of year include **thrips** which can be killed with Orthene or Merit. I use Bayer-All-in-One which contains Merit twice in the spring and twice in the fall before the Dallas Rose Shows to help prevent thrips from damaging the petals of blooms I might want to enter. A good source of information on Merit is on the Rosemania website at www.rosemania.com Click on Expert Advice and then Pesticide Update. **Spider mites** will become a problem when hot, dry weather comes to stay. They will begin feasting on a rose bush from the bottom up sucking the juices from the leaves until the leaf has a bronze color to it. You might also see a rough white or gray crust on the underside of the leaf. The mites are very tiny and can do a lot of damage before they are noticed. To see one, remove a lower leaf and use a magnifier to examine the underside of the leaf. You should see tiny specks on the leaf. You can also tap the leaf over white paper to see the mites as black specks moving around on the

paper. For light infestations you can control them by spraying the undersides of the leaves with a water wand three or four times a week. This forceful spray will blast them off the bush. Avid and Floramite are good sprays which can control spider mites, also. You can read more about them on the Rosemania website under Our Products and Miticides. Both are pricey compared to the price of water and a wand!



Scanning electron micrograph of a two-spotted spider mite feeding on a rose leaf.

Rosy Recommendations.

Roses can become living memorials to those people who have had a great influence on your life, as I am sure you know. I found a pink moss rose named **Waldtraut Nielsen, dated 1932, which I custom ordered from Vintage Gardens and planted to honor my grandmother, Engeline Nielsen, who came to this country from Denmark. Pink roses were planted on her grave site because of her love of roses. Having these roses in my garden helps me remember her. You can find Vintage Gardens at: <http://www.vintagegardens.com/>**

I have six Jackson&Perkins **Veterans' Honor roses in my garden which are one of my favorite roses. The blooms are large, dark red, and beautifully formed with a raspberry scent and dark green foliage. The bushes are very robust and hardy for me. The blooms last a long time in a vase making these blooms easy to give away. One of my bushes was planted in memory of my father who was a WWII veteran.**

I am sure we all remember the spark that kindled our interest in roses, and the people who breathed life on that flame. How wonderful to build memories with roses!



Veterans' Honor