

Red River Rose Society Newsletter

Volume 1

October 2008

Number 9

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.

October will be a busy month for rose lovers...therefore the RRRS will NOT hold its regularly schedule third Tuesday meeting. Instead, here is a list of activities to take advantage of during October:

--Rosedango Saturday 11 Oct a Rose Seminar-Garden Tour-Picnic. Although this is a free event they ask you make reservations so they can have enough food. Call 888-799-6832 or email roses@chambersvilletreefarms.com to reserve your seat.

--Dallas Rose Show Saturday 11 Oct

--Rose Gardens at Farmers Branch Tour Monday 27 Oct—meet at 8:15 in the Gander Mountain parking lot to caravan to Farmers Branch.

SEPTEMBER MEETING RECAP

- Nancy Grella, Sec/Treas

Speaker: Pam Smith dazzled the group. She and her team have truly cultivated a national treasure with the Rose Gardens in Farmers Branch. Her vision is really a blooming success. The standard has been set high for demonstration gardens.

Everyone is encouraged to take advantage of her invitation to tour the gardens on Oct 27th.

Activities/Information/Announcements:

- 1. New Membership Applications: 0**
- 2. Society Membership: 42**
- 3. Attendance: 24**
- 4. Finances: As of 17 September: \$273.42 cash on hand and \$1,214.25 in the bank**
- 5. Joe Abernathy's Shear Sharpening Service:**

6. Continuing Education Hours: 1 hour

7. Jerry Haynes volunteered to head up the Nominating Committee. The RRRS will hold elections in November. Bill Cashin has laid a solid foundation for the Red River Rose Society so it will be a painless transition and really will require very little of your time. Currently, the Executive Board meets monthly. Bill C has promised to continue to line up guest speakers (which I think is the hardest part). Please consider giving of yourself and your time to ensure Red River Rose Society continues on its successful journey.

8. June Boyett has done a marvelous job of editing and publishing the RRRS Newsletter but she is ready to pass over the pen beginning in 2009. Bill Cashin asked for volunteers to take on the task. The response was phenomenal. Carole Mainwaring and Linda Mortimer stepped up. With this talent, the RRRS Newsletter will rival the Herald Democrat.

9. Bill Cashin also announced that it was time to name the newsletter. So put your thinking caps on and submit a name. Carole Mainwaring suggested *Rose Hips* and Shirley Sexton came up with *Rosette Gazette*. I know we have a lot of creative people in the group—lets hear from you.

10. Last call for submission to the ARS Roses in Review (RIR) program. For non-ARS members, copies of the rating packet were available. Everyone is encouraged to review the list of roses for this year and to participate if they are growing any of the roses. ARS members have access to the rating packet in their magazine or you can do it online. Remember deadline for submission is 26 September. (FYI)

11. A big thank you to Ed Supina for his generous donation of tickets to the Dallas Arboretum which were used as conveted drawing prizes.

12. Carole Mainwaring volunteered to take on the task of updating and expanding our rose binder. She will be contacting the RRRS members for their input. She hopes to have the new product ready in January 2009. Basically what she wants from you is a list of the roses you are growing and any comments you want to make about them.

13. If peppers tickle your tongue, you missed a good thing. The Haynes' shared their harvest with the congregation.

14. I want to personally thank everyone for making the ARS Calendar sale a success. 80 calendars were ordered, they arrived in late July and there are only 4 left. The profit from this sale will be \$216.90.

Raffle Winner: Ann Supina received "Hi Neighbor".

Drawing Winners: Colleen Frimann took home "Patriot Song"; Terry Irvin laid claim to "Big John"; Harriet Steward got "Jean Kinelli"; Suzanne Peterson gets to do some wishful shopping with her 2009 Handbook for Selecting Roses; Mike Murphy and Shirley Sexton received tickets to the Dallas Arboretum; and, Carole Linsteadt got a copy of the ARS American Rose magazine.

Next RRRS Meeting: Tuesday, November 18th in the Denison Public Library at 7:00. Jack Walters, owner & operator of Walters-Kimbrew Nursery, will be our guest speaker. There is NO meeting in October to allow members to take advantage of the multitude of rose centered activities in October.

Roses for the Librarians

Don't forget to bring roses to display at the meeting and for the librarians. Be sure to label each rose with it's name, classification if you know it and your name of course. We will hold a special drawing for a rose from all the participants in this display.

Calendar of Coming Events

- October 12, Oklahoma Rose Society Rose Show, Oklahoma City
- October 17-19, South Central District ARS Convention and Rose Show, Fort Smith, Ark.
- November 18th, Red River Rose Society monthly meeting, Jack Walters from Kimbrew-Walters Nursery

The RRRS Executive Board met Sep 5th, with the following information for the membership:

Treasurer's Report: As of 18 Aug: \$323.42 cash on hand and \$1,214.25 in the bank for a total of \$1,537.67. Nancy Grella charged \$583.10 for the ARS calendars. Repayment will be made after all calendars are sold. Profit will be \$216.90. Current membership: 41

The ARS 2009 Calendar Purchase: Nancy Grella purchased 80 calendars. The response has been terrific. As of 5 Sep, there are only 10 calendars available for purchase. Carole Mainwaring did a superb job of selling at the Collin County Rose Society' meeting. The GC Master Gardeners also stepped up and ten were sold at their August meeting. If any calendars remain by the Sherman Arts Festival, Nancy will bring them for sale at the event (Richard Green gave the okay).

Bill Cashin wants to get a group together to tour the Farmers Branch Exhibition Garden. The plan is to gather Monday, 27 October at 8:15 in the Gander Mountain parking lot to caravan down to Farmers Branch. Bill Cashin will make the announcement at the September 16th RRRS meeting. Additionally, Bill Cashin will determine if there is interest in touring the Kimbrew-Walters Nursery at a future date.

Nancy Grella recommended that the RRRS 'name' its publication. Already taken are *Rosarian Reminder* in Tulsa; *Petals & Thorns* in Collin County; *Rose Petals* in Dallas County; and, *The Rosette* in Houston. Bill Cashin will challenge the RRRS members to come up with a name for our newsletter.

At the June National Convention, the ARS decided to offer a four-month trial membership to individuals who join a local society between Jul – Dec 2008. Nancy Grella will submit the info to the ARS on new RRRS members.

Bill Cashin has scheduled Dr John Allen (Jan 2009) and Mark Steljes (Feb 2009) as guest speakers to kick off RRRS' third year.

In June 2008, the RRRS members cast their votes for activities being considered by the Society. The following are the results:

Holding a Spring 2009 Garden Tour: Yes – 19 No – 2

Three people said they would open their gardens; one said maybe; the rest said no.

Holding a meeting at someone's house: Yes – 21

It was recommended that we do it in June to avoid 'renting' the library room for that month.

Five folks said they would host; two more said they need another year before they could host; and fourteen people said no to hosting.

Selling 2009 ARS Calendars: Yes – 14 No – 7

Chartering a bus in October: Yes – 10 No – 11

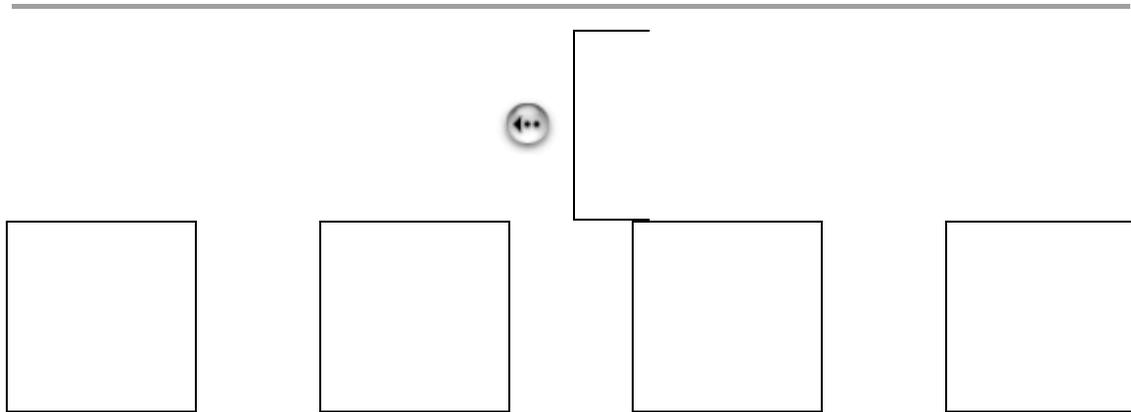
The cost of \$15.00/person was a major factor in voting down the RRRS chartering a bus.

Recommendations included car pooling or exploring another (cheaper) transportation mode.

Farmers Branch EARTH-KIND Rose Garden

Join us Friday, October 24th as we tour these beautiful test gardens. We will meet in the Gander Mountain Parking lot at 8:15 am and car pool to Farmers Branch. We will have lunch in Farmers Branch then drive back.

[EARTH-KIND™ Roses Home](#)



In February, 2008, the Parks and Recreation Department of Farmers Branch, Texas (a suburb in northwest Dallas) joined with Texas AgriLife Extension Service and the Houston Rose Society in a great public/private partnership to create what is, to our knowledge, the largest environmental rose research study of its kind in the United States. The goal of this flagship research is to help identify cultivars that are of such toughness and quality that they will comprise the first ever National Collection of EARTH-KIND™ Roses.

The research partners in this study are Dr. Steve George, Texas AgriLife Extension Service in Dallas, Pam Smith, City of Farmers Branch, Dr. Derald Harp, Texas A&M - Commerce, and Dr. David Zlesak, University of Minnesota Extension.

Located on 2.5 acres in beautiful Gussie Field Watterworth Park, this four-year research study consists of 100 cultivars replicated four times for a total of 400 plants. The experimental design utilized in this flagship study is randomized complete block which is considered the strongest design possible for field research. The vast majority of the experimental cultivars ("varieties") are very winter hardy which means that if they can perform well in the heat, humidity, alkaline

soils, and intense disease pressure of north Texas, they have great potential to go virtually nationwide.

As the ultimate test of their genetic strength, these experimental roses received no soil amendments, and they will never be fertilized, never sprayed with any chemicals, never deadheaded (i.e. have the spent blossoms removed), and never be pruned (except in rare instances to prevent a plant from encroaching on its neighbors). A three-inch-thick mulch layer consisting of tree limbs that have been run through a chipper will be maintained year round. Once established, the plants will be grown with a 70% reduction in the amount of irrigation water applied.

We would be most happy for you to visit and evaluate the plants in this cutting-edge research and vote for your favorite cultivars. The knowledge you gain from this scientific study can be applied immediately to your home landscape. Directions to this beautiful research garden can be found by clicking the following link: [2610 Valley View Lane, Farmers Branch, TX 75234](#)

To explore exciting volunteer opportunities associated with this study, contact Pam Smith at pam.smith@farmersbranch.info.

[Note: Any beds edged with rock are being handled differently and are not part of the EARTH-KIND™ research.]

In Spring, 2007, the Parks and Recreation Department of Farmers Branch, Texas (a suburb in northwest Dallas) planted an official EARTH-KIND™ rose research study in their Historical Park which features five experimental cultivars ("varieties") replicated in three randomized, complete blocks.

As a severe test of their genetics, these roses will never be fertilized, never sprayed with any chemicals, never deadheaded (i.e. have the spent blossoms removed), and never be pruned (except in rare instances to prevent a plant from encroaching on its neighbors). A three-inch-thick mulch layer consisting of tree limbs that have been run through a chipper will be maintained year round. Once established, the plants will be grown with a 70% reduction in the amount of irrigation water applied.

Directions to this attractive research planting can be obtained from the following link: [2540 Farmers Branch Lane, Farmers Branch, TX 75234](#)

ARS ROSE OF THE MONTH

September 2007

Secret

by [Sally Long](#)



The question always comes up. If you could only have one rose, what would it be? Secret is a rose that would be a candidate for this hallowed position. This is a rose that has everything. The blooms are a delicate, creamy ivory with coral-pink edges and as the blossom matures, colors deepen. Secret is beautiful at all stages from the elegant buds to the fully open blooms. The blossoms have excellent form and have won their share of royalty awards. When you see the exhibition form, you will understand how

it could be Queen of Show and why it is seen frequently in a variety of collection classes.

If I only had one rose, it would need to be a perfect plant too. Secret is a great plant because it is vigorous, easy to grow and very disease free. The new foliage is a striking mahogany-red that is an eye-catcher in the garden. The plant produces a multitude of blooms and is quick to repeat. A hybrid tea introduced in 1994, its parents are Pristine x Fellowship.

If I could only have one rose, it would have to be fragrant and the perfume would need to be unforgettable. Secret is one of the most fragrant Hybrid Teas on the market. The scent is spicy with a hint of apples and cloves mixed with a traditional tea rose fragrance. It is intoxicating. A small bouquet will perfume a room.

With all these positive characteristics, there are a few tiny flaws. The blooms are a little small and the pink edge does fade when it gets hot. This doesn't seem to matter when you see a bush filled with beautiful pink and white blooms and smell the wonderful fragrance as you pass by. Secret will be a rose that continues to stay around a long time and will always have a place in my garden.

Photo courtesy of Baldo Villegas

October Consulting Rosarian's Report

Carole Mainwaring

cmainwak5@aol.com

Youth has its glamour, maturity has its Roses.

We are young with the youth of the Roses. We are as old as the Roses, no more, no less. And Roses, which are ever-changing, never grow old. So we buy – we buy Roses, and we buy youth. We make a precious, a priceless bargain.

Walter P. Wright wrote the above sentiments in his book Roses and Rose Gardens first published in 1911. A rare find for me in a Welsh bookshop a few years ago, I enjoyed reading about rose growing and showing at the turn of the century. Wright recommended storing new roses in the outhouse until the ground warms for planting and using a nicotine and soft soap spray as an insecticide--neither of which are practical nor advisable today. But, what appealed to me most in reading his book is his almost lyrical joy and love of the rose as the floral queen of the garden. October should see your roses in full bloom

after the cooler weather and rains of late August and September. Enjoy this great opportunity for a second "sweet o' the year" by drinking in the beauty of your garden!

Fall In Step!

1. Watering

Be sure to keep watering your roses on a regular basis. This is especially important when hot or dry winds or very sunny days prevail. Don't be fooled into thinking the cooler weather means less watering. Your plants are still growing and need the water for photosynthesis, transpiration to cool the leaves, transportation of nutrients and carbohydrates through the plant, and for turgid cells and strong stems.

2. Fertilizing

Continue to fertilize your roses through October. I have usually completed my application of organic, dry fish and kelp meals in August and September, and now apply only liquid fertilizer in October. You will want to reduce the nitrogen and increase the phosphorous during the weeks before a rose show. You also don't want to apply any high nitrogen fertilizer after the first of October as that will stimulate a lot of new growth which would be killed or damaged over winter. Water well before and after fertilizing. Stop fertilizing at the end of October to help prepare the rose bushes for dormancy. I usually stop all deadheading after the Dallas Rose Show in October. Of course, I still cut roses for the house and to give away! Hips may form on the bushes now which might be enjoyed by the birds this winter.

3. Spraying

Continue your regular spraying program watching for mildew as the nights cool down and the daytime temperatures remain warm. Cucumber beetles may begin to be more of a problem as well as aphids and thrips, so you may need to use an insecticide like Orthene. Your water wand will help with insects and mildew, also. Let your foliage dry before you spray, if you have heavy dews in the morning. Always water before you spray or you might see spray burn on your leaves.

4. Mulching and Composting

Now is a good time to reapply mulch to maintain a 2-4 inch layer. The mulch will help protect the roots from damage from unexpected early freezes in the fall. It is also a great insulator in the winter. I keep the mulch away from the base of the rose bushes until after a couple of hard freezes when I hill the roses 10-12 inches with soil, compost, and/or mulch. Be careful when you buy compost and soil or you inadvertently might be planting grass and weed seeds in your rose beds.

5. Planting

September and October can be good months for planting container roses. I have had good success planting in October. Fall planting lets the roots get a head start for spring growth. I do mound them well after the first freeze with soil and mulch to protect the canes over winter. Now is a good time to place orders with mail order suppliers for spring delivery of new rose bushes as the best roses might be in short supply. Waiting to order later might mean that your selection will be narrower with all the "best" roses spoken for. You might also begin new bed preparation for spring planting. This would consist of killing all grass and weeds in the bed, digging and tilling in soil amendments like compost, fertilizers, expanded shale, etc. and letting the bed mellow and settle over the winter.

Have You Heard?

1. Orthonex Garden Insect and Disease Control concentrate, pint

I have had to search high and low to find this product the last several weeks. My local Home Depot is not selling it any longer and said that once existing stocks are sold nationwide, it will be discontinued. I searched the EPA website and found a cancellation order for acephate, one of the chemicals in Orthonex. The web address is:

<http://www.epa.gov/EPA-PEST/2002/March/Day-06/p5315.htm>

for more information. North Haven Gardens is still selling the product, so I have special ordered enough to finish out my spray program for this year. I am still seeking to determine whether it will be unavailable everywhere in the future or just not be sold at Home Depot.

2. Persistent Herbicides in Compost and Manure

Several new herbicides containing clopyralid for yard and pasture use might persist in compost consisting of grass clippings, hay, straw, and the manure and urine of animals feeding on treated forage. While the herbicides do little harm to the animals or humans, the compost or manures have damaged sensitive plants at gardens and nurseries. Unfortunately, clopyralid is largely unaffected by the composting process. Plant-deforming symptoms on peas, beans, tomatoes, potatoes, sunflower and certain shrubs were recorded. Roses were not specifically mentioned, but it is unclear whether they were tested. The herbicides are growth-regulator types like 2,4-D. You might want to read the full article at: <http://ohioline.osu.edu/aex-fact/0714.html> for more information. Another problem with manures is they can be highly saline and should not be used in containers. Manures must also be thoroughly decomposed or they will burn the roots.

3. Municipal Compost

If you use municipal compost, be sure that the compost has been handled correctly and heated to the needed 160 degrees F. to kill fungal and other disease organisms as well as weed and grass seed. If it has not, then you might be contaminating your roses when you apply the compost or seeding the beds with grass and weeds. I was at Calloway's looking for compost/soil that was weed and pathogen free. I was shown some bags in which the nut grass was growing right through the bag!

4. Coming Attractions

As if we don't have enough to do in October with roses, here are two more wonderful events to be enjoyed: the *Tyler, Texas Rose Festival* Oct. 16-19 (<http://www.texasrosefestival.com/festival/calendar.htm>) and the *Fall Festival of Roses* at the Antique Rose Emporium in Independence, TX Oct. 31-Nov. 2, 2008. (<http://www.antiqueroseemporium.com/events.html?pid=12167528783543713>) Both of these locations are favorite rose pilgrimages of mine. I purchase roses at Jack Walter in Grand Saline, Chamblee's in Tyler, and the Antique Rose Emporium in Independence every time I visit!



Liebeszauber, a 2006 hybrid tea, a very vigorous and healthy rose!