

**A local, nonprofit organization affiliated with the American Rose Society (ARS) and dedicated to the study, enjoyment, enhancement, cultivation and promotion of the Rose in the Lake Texoma Area.**



<http://www.redriverrosesociety.com>  
<http://ars.org>



**February 2009**

**Volume 2, Number 2**

## February Meeting: Spring Rose Care

**Date:** Feb. 17 (third Tuesday of most months)  
**Time:** 5:30 pm Dinner with Speaker and Members at Devoli's Restaurant  
 6:30 pm "Ask the Expert" Time  
 7:00 pm Program

**Place:** Denison Public Library Meeting Room

**Mark Stelljes** from *Roses inc. Tulsa* is no stranger to members of the Red River Rose Society (RRRS). Mark always provides us with expert advice and help selecting the best rose varieties to plant and the best chemicals, fertilizers, tools and sprayers to use to make rose growing easy. His program this month will focus on Spring Rose Care and How To Water When Water Is In Short Supply. He truly can "take the mystery out of growing roses." Your roses will thank you for attending the meeting!

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## President's Corner

*By Sue Abernathy*

The Red River Rose Society is off to a great start in 2009! There were 27 individuals in attendance at the January meeting and 18 families have renewed their membership for 2009. We had one new member join and several guests in attendance. Hopefully, they will come back after seeing what we are all about.

If you haven't already done so, please check out the new website at

<http://www.redriverrosesociety.com>

It is filled with information about the RRRS, different articles about roses and beautiful rose photos, not to mention all of those cool You Tube videos. To date, we have had hits on the website from all around North Texas (Gunter, the east coast (NY and CT) to the west coast (CA) and even from the other side of the world (China). We have a unique opportunity to make the Red River Rose Society known to others and to educate the public about roses. So, if you have any ideas about what to include on the RRRS website, please send an email to me or Jerry Haynes. We especially want to highlight our members' rose gardens, so send us your photos.

Don't forget about our FREE Educational Rose Seminars at Eisenhower Birthplace Park on the last three consecutive Saturdays in February

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## RRRS Happenings

By Richard McGowan, June Boyett,  
and Nancy Grella

from 9-10 am. The topics and instructors for these informative seminars will be as follows:

**2/14** – Rose Pruning – Bill Cashin and Richard McGowan, Instructors

**2/21** – The Best Roses for Texoma – Nancy Grella and Sue Abernathy, Instructors

**2/28** – Planting and Caring for Roses – Jerry Haynes and Gerald Frimann, Instructors

Also, consider taking advantage of the South Central District Winter Workshop hosted by the Tulsa Rose Society on March 7th in Tulsa, OK. If you are a current Red River Rose Society member (2009 dues paid), RRRS will pay the \$45.00 tuition fee for the workshop for one person per household. This is an excellent opportunity to learn more about what it takes to grow great roses in North Texas. If you are unable to attend, you may still order the Consulting Rosarian Manual from the ARS for \$15, plus shipping, which provides much needed information about growing roses.

So, tell your friends about our website and free seminars in February and remember to bring a friend to the next meeting on 2/17, when Mark Stelljes from *Roses inc. Tulsa* will be teaching us all about roses. My roses never looked better after following his pruning advice and feeding/spraying schedule last year. I can hardly wait!



Bill Cashin with his ARS Bronze Medal for Outstanding Service to the RRRS and his silver rose and framed nomination for the ARS District Silver Honor Medal.  
(Photo by Jay Goode)

Led by new president Sue Abernathy, the Red River Rose Society held its first meeting of the year on Tuesday evening at Denison Public Library. In attendance were 27 members and guests from both sides of the Red River. We were happy to say howdy to our **guests from Bryan County, Oklahoma** and welcome **Carolyn Hayward** from Denton, TX who joined the RRRS that evening. Drawing winners were Anita Cashin (candle), Ed Supina (ARS magazine), Carole Mainwaring (rose), and Bob Wilson (rose). Congratulations!

**Bill Cashin**, out-going president and founder of the club, was recognized with the ARS Bronze Medal for Outstanding Service to the RRRS. He also received a RRRS silver rose and a framed nomination for the American Rose Society's Silver Honor Medal for District Service to the ARS. Sue cited his many contributions to the club both in time, expertise and material, namely roses he has propagated himself and donated as prizes. Because of his many friends in the world of roses, Bill will carry on organizing the club's excellent program of speakers.

Guest speaker for the second time was **Dr. John B. Allen**, a Master Consulting Rosarian, who has won Queen of the Show awards 26 times in the Dallas-Fort Worth area. His topic concerned his experience with own-root as opposed to grafted roses. Dr. Allen gave excellent recommendations for selection of rootstock for all classes of roses. He showed photos of his particular favorites: Raphaela, Classic Beauty, Perfectly Pink, Louise Estes, Signature, Brooks Red, St. Patrick, and Hot Princess with which he won Queen of the Fort Worth Rose Show in 2007.

**Carole Mainwaring** has up-dated a catalog of all the roses grown by members called *Our Gardens of Roses*. The catalog records members' comments on most of the roses including a listing of their favorites. (continued on page 3)

A spectacular new website has been developed by Webmaster **Jay Goode** with support from Sue Abernathy, Jerry Haynes and Bill Cashin at [www.redriverrosesociety.com](http://www.redriverrosesociety.com) which is open to everyone. The site, laden with advice about the care and planting of roses, should prove a valuable asset to rose fanciers.

Sue announced a slight change in plans for the annual RRRS Rose Sale. This year the sale will take place in conjunction with Earth Day and the Master Garden plant sale on Saturday, 18 April, in the grounds around the Municipal Building in Sherman. Most of the roses on sale will have been propagated by club members from varieties that do particularly well in our area. Members will be glad to give advice about the selection, care and planting of the many varieties. Also available at that time will be an opportunity to order attractive name tags for each variety. These tags were designed by Sue Abernathy and will be offered for \$1.00 per tag.

**Gerald Frimann** has graciously agreed to be our RRRS Historian with help from Linda Mortimer and Nancy Grella. Thanks, Gerald, for taking on this important task for the RRRS!

**Joe Abernathy's Shear Sharpening Service**  
Remember to bring your pruners, loppers, and scissors to the Feb. meeting so that Joe Abernathy can sharpen and oil them in time for pruning season. You can retrieve your shears at the March meeting. Cost is \$5 for pruners with money donated to the RRRS. Thanks, Joe, for providing this great service to the Red River Rose Society!

## Events Calendar

**Feb. 14: Seminar on Rose Pruning** at Eisenhower Birthplace Park, 208 East Day St., Denison, TX. Instructors will be Bill Cashin and Richard McGowan. Time: 9 a.m. to 10 a.m.

**Feb. 21: Seminar on The Best Roses for Texoma** at Eisenhower Birthplace Park, 208 East Day St., Denison, TX. Instructors will be Nancy Grella and Sue Abernathy. Time: 9 a.m. to 10 a.m.

**Feb 28: Seminar on Planting and Caring for Roses.** This is the third of three free educational rose seminars at Eisenhower Birthplace Park, 208 East Day St., Denison, TX. Instructors will be Jerry Haynes and Gerald Frimann. Time: 9 a.m. to 10 a.m.

**March 6-7: South Central District Winter Workshop and Consulting Rosarian School,** Radisson Hotel at the Tulsa Airport. For more information contact: Brenda Johnson, 918-227-195, or Butch Neumeier, 918-342-2885, or email [no1roseman@aol.com](mailto:no1roseman@aol.com) [eddie2james2402@sbcglobal.net](mailto:eddie2james2402@sbcglobal.net)

**March 17: RRRS Meeting,** 7:00 pm, Claude Graves presenting "Growing Easy-Teas and Easy-Tea Test Gardens

**April 24 and 25: Collin County Rose Society Garden Tour.** Call Susan Flanagan for times and details at 972-669-0291.

**April 26: Dallas Rose Society Spring Rose Show** at the Dallas Arboretum. Call John Allen for times and details at 972-727-3007.

**May 19: RRRS Meeting,** 7:00 pm, Mike Becker as speaker.

**June 16: RRRS Meeting,** 7:00 pm, Owner of Wayside Flowers will give a presentation on Flower Arranging.

**June 18 – 24: ARS Spring National Convention and Rose Show** in conjunction with World Federation of Rose Societies, Co-Chairs: Brenda Viney and Durlene Sanders, 604-936-1514, [brendaviney@telus.net](mailto:brendaviney@telus.net)

**July 17 – 19: ARS All-Miniature Rose Conference and Rose Show,** Radisson Penn Harris Hotel & Convention Center, Location: Camp Hill, PA. For more information contact Glenn Smith, 717-938-9991, [cowboysdal@aol.com](mailto:cowboysdal@aol.com)

**October 17: Chambersville RoseDango.** Call Claude Graves for time and details at 972-234-5184.

**October 18: Dallas Fall Rose Show** at the Farmers Branch Senior Center. Call John Allen for times and details at 972-727-3007.  
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**November 11 – 15: ARS Fall National Conference and Rose Show**, Location: Palm Springs, CA. For more information contact Cliff Orent, [cliff@clifforent.com](mailto:cliff@clifforent.com)

### A Shopping Opportunity

Mark Stelljes, owner of *Roses inc. Tulsa* has offered to bring with him to our Feb. meeting any rose care chemicals, fertilizers, tools, pruners, sprayers, or safety products you would like to purchase from his store. He cannot bring any roses as they are not ready yet for purchase. You can click on the link below to view his products and place an order for pick-up at the nursery. This will ensure that no S&H charges are added. Do indicate on your order that it is for delivery to the Red River Rose Society meeting in Denison on Feb. 17. What a great offer!

<http://www.rosesinctulsa.com/>



Gerald and Colleen Frimann—50<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary this year! (Photo by C. Mainwaring)

## February Rosarian Spotlight: Gerald and Colleen Frimann

By Linda Mortimer

In this new feature, a RRRS member or member team will be selected and interviewed to be in the spotlight for that month. We hope you will enjoy getting better acquainted with these members and gain new ideas about growing roses!

**Why do you grow roses?** Both Gerald and Colleen say they have always loved growing roses. They have been growing them for over 40 years. After moving here from Oklahoma, they bought a house that had never had a garden put in before. After analyzing the soil, they found out that they had a lot of black clay. As the saying goes, “Roses don’t like to get their feet wet” so they decided to plant their roses on raised flower beds to give their roses plenty of drainage.

**What classes of roses do you grow?** The roses chosen by the Frimann’s include EarthKind, David Austin, Miniatures, Hybrid Tea, Climbers and Heritage. Colleen said she really likes her climbing roses and how pretty they look,

especially growing on the trellises. They have a climbing rose on a chain link fence in their back yard called the “Lady Banks” rose. This is one of their favorite roses. It is a very aggressive rose and is almost thorn free. The trick to this rose is that you can’t prune this rose until June or it won’t bloom that season.

**How do you care for your roses?** The Frimanns have decided to use chemical, organic and natural methods of care for their roses depending on what the problem is. They would prefer to stay away from chemicals except for certain situations when you have to spray. They spray weekly with fungicides and the proper pesticides for aphids and spider mites.

**What are your favorite roses?** They both agreed that they had several that were their favorites. The first one was the “Altissimo” which is a climber and is a dark red, velvet color. Their second choice was a “Nacogdoches” or “Grandma’s Yellow” rose that is a found rose (also called the Yellow Rose of Texas). It will be promoted as a Texas Superstar rose in the

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spring of 2009. This rose is a deep yellow color. Their third choice is called "Sea Foam", a shrub that can be used as a ground cover. This rose is also an EarthKind rose and can be made to climb. This rose grows in creamy white clusters. The fourth one is called "Mutabilis", a multicolor EarthKind shrub, and the fifth would be "Country Dancer" which is a Dr. Griffith Buck Rose. It is an EarthKind shrub and is a beautiful pink color. The last one would be the "Lady Banks" classified as a Species Rose. This is a climbing rose and blooms with yellow flowers in the spring only. Some of their other favorites include Belinda's Dream, an EarthKind pink rose; two David Austin roses: the "Graham Thomas" rose which is yellow and the "Dark Lady" rose which is red/crimson; the "Oklahoma" hybrid tea red rose; the "Memphis Music" mini-flora which is red with blotches of cream; and the "China Doll" which is classified as a Polyantha rose and is deep pink in color. These are just a few of their favorite roses.



Memphis Music (photo by Gerald Frimann)

**Do you have a favorite rose person or event that you feel has impacted you greatly and your love of roses?** They both think Bill Cashin has greatly enhanced their love for roses. Jerry has been working with Bill on propagating roses and helping him care for some of his roses through the winter. Also, being actively involved in the process of growing roses in general will help you learn more about them and how to take care of them.

**How many roses are you growing at the present time?** We had 22 at the last count but have planted some since then so there could be as many as 33 by now.

**What is the best advice you would give to a novice rose grower?** They both agree that the first thing you should do is to join a rose society/club. Next, become a Master Gardener when classes are available. You can also get a lot of information about roses from all the very helpful Rosarians in the North Central Texas area that are willing to share their experience and advice if you have a problem or question. They've also been to Tulsa, Oklahoma and talked to Mark Stelljes at his store, *Roses inc. Tulsa*. He is an encyclopedia of information about growing roses. They have also received some very helpful information from a Tarrant County Agricultural Agent named Dotty Woodson. In the end, they recommend that you find out what works for you depending on the conditions of your own roses. Lastly you should use the new web page [www.redriverrosesociety.com](http://www.redriverrosesociety.com) for additional information.

**What secret tip would you be willing to share about growing, showing, or just enjoying roses?** The biggest tip they would like to share would be the preparation of the soil and good water drainage. Water roses at least once a week and fertilize once a month. They have a lot of trouble with clay in their soil, so they plant their roses in raised beds. They also recommend expanded shale in clay soils because it really works to help roses succeed (Eisenhower Birthplace, for example), but it is also somewhat expensive to use. You might want to buy enough to use on a few roses at one time so it won't be too hard on your pocket book.

**How long have you been growing roses?** They grew them for 39 years in Oklahoma and have grown them for the three years they have lived here in Texas.

**What is the funniest experience you have had growing roses?** Colleen remembered a time when one of her really pretty yellow David Austin roses had six different blossoms clustered together on it. It was so pretty they wanted to

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give it to one of their neighbors, Ann, who has been ill from cancer. They left it on her front step when no one answered the door. A couple of days later they had a chance to talk to Ann and her daughter. Ann said that she had the rose sitting on her kitchen table, and when she walked into the room one day and said aloud to the rose, "Oh, you beautiful thing!" all the petals fell off right in front of her. She was laughing when she said it because the gift was greatly appreciated but didn't last as long as she would have liked.

Their closing thought was that the best thing you can do for the roses you love is to join your local rose society and meet all the other wonderful people that love to grow roses and enjoy them together.



Grandma's Yellow Rose (Photo by Gerald Frimann)

## Consulting Rosarian's Report: February in the Rose Garden

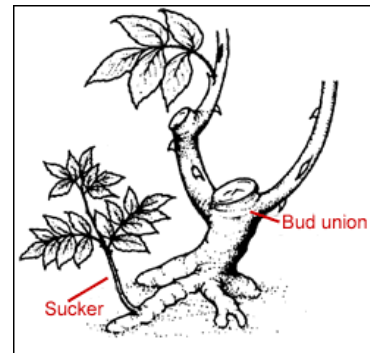
By Carole Mainwaring

"A life with love will have some thorns, but a life without thorns will have no roses."  
(unknown author)

Ah, love. It makes the world go 'round. It also makes the rosarian cover his or her hands and arms with leather gauntlet gloves, put on layers of clothing, and grab the pruners ready to trim and shape the reluctant rose bushes they love. If you have ever seen an abandoned rose garden due to the ill health of its owner or sad disregard of new owners, you know that most roses can tolerate only so much neglect. Most unpruned rose bushes soon fill with diseased and dead

branches and grow tall and lanky. Pruning helps to increase flower production and improve the shape of the bush. It is the rare rose bush that thrives without some pruning.

We usually prune right after Valentine's Day and finish the first week of March in our area. Watch for the yellow blooms of forsythia. When you see them, it definitely is time to prune! Basic practice in pruning is to remove all dead, diseased, damaged, and rubbing canes. The oldest wood can be removed to make way for new wood to grow, and small, twiggy growth can be cut off. There is debate in the rose world on whether old, wimpy, and crossed canes need to be removed. Do so if you think it best for the bush. Be sure to prune at the point of origin. This means to prune where the canes emerge from the graft or from another cane. The best rule to follow is to take off one-third of the bush shaping the bush as you prune. Roses that bloom only once in the spring or early summer should be pruned right after blooming. New rose bushes should be pruned very judiciously or not at all. They need all their leaves and canes to mature. When you make a pruning cut, check to see if the bark is green and center white. If it is amber or brown or has a hole in it, you need to cut the dead or dying tissue off the bush continuing to make pruning cuts lower and lower down the cane until you find the center white. You may have to prune right down to the bud union if grafted. Many rosarians prune out canes growing in the center of the bush to open it for maximum air circulation and light and to help prevent disease.

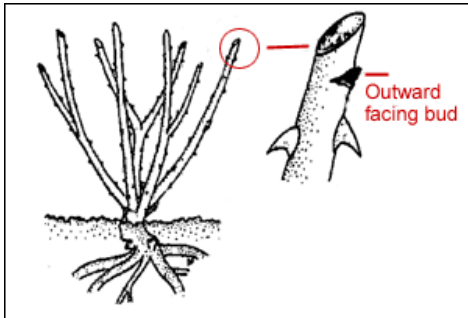


<http://www.urbanext.uiuc.edu/roses/prune.html>

Pull off any suckers that are present on grafted  
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roses as close to the main root as possible. Suckers are canes growing from the rootstock. They will produce blooms that are different from the grafted top part of the bush. The accepted practice is to make a 45 degree angle cut about 0.5 cm above a dormant eye. The cut is down and away from the eye to keep moisture and sap from pouring down into the developing eye and interfering with growth. The most important thing to keep in mind is that the by-pass pruners (not anvil), loppers, and saws need to be sharp and clean when making the cut or the cane will be crushed or stripped allowing more disease to enter the cane.



<http://www.urbanext.uiuc.edu/roses/prune.html>

Use common sense when pruning, observe the results you get from your pruning each year, and make adjustments to your routine based on your observations and experiences. You will find that some bushes require more severe pruning, some only a light pruning, and some just a trimming to shape the bush. An excellent resource for pruning advice is the ARS website at [http://www.ars.org/About\\_Roses/pruning.html](http://www.ars.org/About_Roses/pruning.html)

Once you finish pruning a bush, seal the ends of the largest canes with waterproof white glue to help keep out cane borers. Now remove all the old leaves, rake up all the debris around the bush, and discard everything in the trash. Do not compost as the old leaves may harbor fungal spores and insect eggs. Keep the mound of soil/mulch around the base of your bushes until the last hard freeze. A hard freeze is generally considered to have occurred when the temperature drops below 27 degrees.

Following pruning, you will want to begin your fertilizing and spray program. The biggest mistake new rosarians make is to wait until they

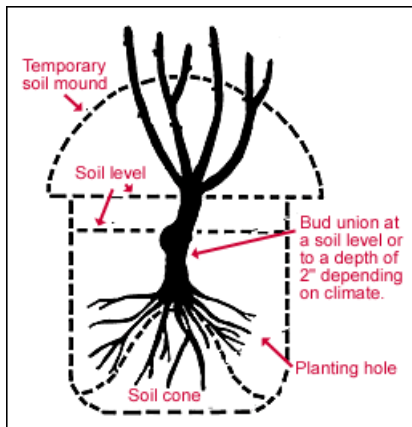
see disease in the garden to spray. It is so much easier to prevent blackspot, mildew, and rust than cure it. Choose your spray program and be sure you use safety products like goggles, respirator, and gloves as indicated on the product labels. Many rosarians are choosing to plant very disease-resistant bushes to keep from having to spray often. EarthKind roses have been tested and found to be very resistant to diseases. However, if you have roses in your garden with less disease resistance, then be sure you spray faithfully. Funginex, Mancozeb, and neem oil all will work to prevent and/or kill disease.

Fertilize after pruning once you see new growth using organic soil drenches like alfalfa meal. A great formula is 12 cups of alfalfa meal in a 32 gal. trash can. Let the mixture ferment with a lid tightly covering the can for up to five days stirring each day. Right before you pour the mixture on the bushes, stir in 1-2 Tablespoons of Superthrive, 2 cups of Epsom salts, and ½ cup Sprint 330 or some form of chelated iron. Put one gallon on each bush and 1/3 gallon on miniatures. Now this is noxious stuff—but the roses love it! One cup of rabbit food or alfalfa pellets can be sprinkled around the bush in place of the soil drench (1/2 cup for miniatures). Do this only if you have adequate fencing and no rabbits in the vicinity. Rabbits love to gnaw on rose canes just as much as they will enjoy your buffet of alfalfa pellets!

Keep up your watering schedule as we still have drought conditions. Be sure to water well the day before and the day after you fertilize. If the soil is dry when you fertilize, the roots will burn.

Plant bare-root roses this month. Be sure to follow the directions you receive with the bare-root rose. If your rose is a grafted rose, plant it with the bud union at or slightly above the soil level for our climate. Be sure to keep bare root roses moist when you receive them. Soak them in a bucket of water prior to planting. A great article to read on planting bare-root roses is this: [http://www.ars.org/About\\_Roses/planting\\_bareroot.html](http://www.ars.org/About_Roses/planting_bareroot.html)

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<http://www.urbanext.uiuc.edu/roses/planting.html>

Transplanting roses from one place to another is also recommended for late February. The North Carolina Rose Society covers the finer points and myths about transplanting roses and provides a general outline for caring for a transplanted rose all season in this informative article: <http://www.ncnhdistrict.org/aom/myths.html> If you are looking for good suggestions for bed preparation, take a look at this article from Texas A&M: <http://plantanswers.tamu.edu/publications/roses/plant.html>

It is indeed love that pulls us into the garden in February, love for all that our roses will be in April and May if we groom and nurture them well now.

### February Rose Calendar

- Order roses
- Test soil for pH and nutrients; adjust as necessary
- Prune
- Transplant roses as desired
- Plant bare root roses
- Fertilize with a slow-release fertilizer after pruning
- Spray as needed
- Apply mulch

**February Rose Tip:** Hold the pruning shears so that the cutting blade is down. See this site below for great images of pruning.

[http://images.chron.com/content/news/photos/08/02/09/Pruning\\_v1.pdf](http://images.chron.com/content/news/photos/08/02/09/Pruning_v1.pdf)

### Smaller Than a Pencil

By Baxter Williams, ARS District Director

(Sing to the tune of "If You're Happy and You Know It, Clap Your Hands".)

Reprinted with permission from the author.)

If it's smaller than a pencil, cut it off.  
 It makes no difference whether hard or soft.  
 If the stems are sized like straws,  
 They all must have their flaws.  
 They're just too flippin' small, cut 'em off.

If your leaves are turning yellow, fix 'em now.  
 They'll be dropping, and cause sadness to your brow.

No matter what the cause,  
 Blackspot, mites, or drought;  
 Don't let 'em hit the ground; fix 'em now.

To kill the rose bush eaters, you must spray.  
 Don't let them, on your winning bushes, play.  
 Use Avid for the mites,  
 Thrips and bad guys in your sight,  
 But ladybugs, lacewings and mantids are okay.

The blackspot, mildew and rust are all fungus.  
 (My blackspots are really just humongous!).  
 Some Mancozeb will kill it,  
 And some Funginex, prevent it;  
 We don't need maladies like these in among us.

The growing of our roses will be fun.  
 Especially when the garden work is done.  
 Whether in the sun or gloom,  
 Flowers brighten every room.  
 I love God's rose creations everyone.

### To Your Health...

Submitted by Nancy Grella

Do you know that 30% of tetanus cases come from gardening or farming injuries? Do you know that adults, 50 years and older, account for 70% of tetanus infections? Do you know that three out of ten people diagnosed with tetanus die from it? Do you know the last time you had a tetanus booster?

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## Editors' Desk

By Carole Mainwaring

Most people think of tetanus only when they step on a rusty nail. But, any break in the skin can make you susceptible. The five most common injuries that put gardeners at risk for a tetanus infection are lawn mower accidents, falls from a ladder, chainsaw injuries, splinters and puncture wounds from thorns (sound familiar?) and brambles.

The tetanus bacteria are found worldwide in soil, dust, animal intestines, manure, and animal saliva. The spores of the tetanus bacteria enter the body through a wound or scratch. They thrive and germinate in the low-oxygen environment inside the body. As the spores germinate, they release toxins that disrupt the nervous system. Within five to 10 days after the infection, tetanus may exhibit its most known symptom—lockjaw. Once a full-blown case is underway, there is no stopping it. The disease can only be managed, not cured.

But the good news is tetanus can be prevented. You may remember getting tetanus booster shots when you were in school (back in the old day). The problem is most of us have not gotten the booster shot every ten years to keep our protective immunity level high. The Td booster shot is a combination of vaccines that protect you against tetanus and diphtheria (bacteria also found in soil which infects your tonsils and throat and can be passed from person to person).

The Td booster shot is safe, effective, and generally well-tolerated. The most common side effects are soreness in the arm where the shot was given, redness, and/or firmness at the site of injection. Most side effects are considered mild and do not last for more than 24 hours.

So, before you head to the garden to get your hands dirty – STOP. Do you know the last time you had a tetanus booster? If it was more than ten years ago or if you can't conjure up the date, you need a Td booster! Care for yourself as much as you care for your roses.

Love the new logo for the February Roses on the Red Newsletter? Please thank **Jerry Haynes** for its creation. He used Corel Draw to make a freehand drawing of a red rose with the stem outlining the Red River as it borders Grayson County to the north. Thanks for this very creative symbol of the Red River Rose Society!

This issue debuts three new columns: The Rosarian Spotlight of Gerald and Colleen Frimann, the 2009 Top Ten Favorite Roses of the Red River Rose Society, and Rose Buds. It is no accident that many of our interests are formed at an early age. We often remember by association. A certain smell can flood our minds with fond memories of long past people or events. This editor attributes her love of roses to the rose garden next door to her childhood home. Two retired sisters grew the most beautiful roses there. Neighborhood children were not allowed into the garden unless invited. I remember getting my head stuck in the picket fence trying to smell the blooms between the slats! Please send your photo of a child stopping to smell the roses for a later issue. We appreciate receiving your articles and photos for the newsletter, so do keep them coming!

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## Rosebuds



Adeline Eunmi, editor's great-niece, enjoying the roses at the Descanso Gardens in La Canada Flintridge, CA. (Photo by her mom)

# Super Roses Forcing Your Roses to Their Full Potential

By Mike Chute



*Reprinted from the Rhode Island Rose Society Rose Review newsletter, August 2004, © Rhode Island Rose Society, All Rights Reserved. Submitted by Bill Cashin.*

Could that have been a rose leaping out of a five-gallon pot in my garden late last spring? Yes, it was 'Neptune', a new hybrid tea from Weeks Roses. I acquired this rose with large lavender blooms, strong fragrance and shiny leathery foliage at the Yankee District auction last March. Rather than plant it directly into my garden, I potted it up with twenty or so other roses that made up this season's roster of prospective "super roses."

I define super roses as roses that are successfully forced to their maximum potential. I plant them in containers and that allows me to control most of the factors that make them grow. This includes the best potting soil, a gourmet diet, copious amounts of water, adequate sunshine, and complete insect and disease control. Add in a discerning rose gardener, cooperation from Mother Nature, and a little serendipitous good luck and the results are an array of stunning rose bushes. Since all this takes place outside in my garden without benefit of a greenhouse, the process is subjected to the vagaries of nature. Late frosts, not enough warm weather, too much warm weather, and windy days are some of the hazards beyond my control. The horticultural challenge is to grow the strongest, healthiest, and most floriferous roses possible, in effect, creating a class of super roses.

I began growing roses in containers seriously six years ago when I took a few bare-root roses and potted them up into handy plastic containers in the early spring of that year. The results were pretty good and I enjoyed the process so much

that I repeated it the following year with a few more roses.

Each year as I became more scientific, the results got better and the containerized roses began to out-perform the garden plants. Container rose gardening gives me far more control of the plants' environment and the flexibility of positioning them for optimum growth. Growing roses successfully in containers is not complicated and requires the same rose-care basics as do in-ground roses. There are, however, extra details to take into consideration:

**Plants:** Start with the best possible plants...the variety is not critical. I get excellent results with fresh, two-year-old, number one, field grown bare-root roses. Some previously potted roses will work but require more attention in the early spring after recovering from the cold weather months spent outside under winter cover. Avoid small, substandard roses regardless of cheap price. They will never be super roses.

**Soiless mix:** The best potting soil is no soil at all. I like Pro-Mix BX, a soiless mix, which comes in 3.8 cubic foot bales and can be found in many garden centers. (The cost is around \$20 per bale and one bale will fill 10 five-gallon pots.) ProMix is a peat-based professional growing mix consisting primarily of Canadian sphagnum peat moss with perlite and vermiculite, along with dolomitic and calcitic limestone as pH adjustors. It is lightweight, uniform, and free of insects, insect eggs, and diseases plus it holds plenty of water. It is ideal for plants in the 5 to 7 pH range...perfect for roses.



Double Delight 36-inch Patio Tree Rose  
(Photo by Jackson and Perkins  
<http://www.jacksonandperkins.com/gardening/GP/homepage/GardenRoses>)  
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**Potting:** Potting is completed by April first. I prune the canes as I normally do, but trim the roots a little more aggressively for a good fit in the pot. I use new five-gallon plastic pots because they are large enough to support healthy roses for one season and small enough to move around the garden. After one season, the plants may be root bound and should be planted in the ground or repotted into a larger container. It is not necessary to plant the bud union below the soil surface as the rose should be replanted in the ground by season's end. If not, then mulch heavily in the fall.

**After potting:** I place them side-by-side on heavy benches erected along one side of my garden and move them further apart as they spread their wings. As the weather warms and the rose growth accelerates, I turn the pots every few days for even sun exposure.

**Feeding:** Nutrients must first be in solution before plants can absorb them. When the soil has warmed sufficiently to stimulate new growth, usually by late April, I commence feeding by using water-soluble fertilizers exclusively . . . any brand will do: Peters, Miracle-Grow, or Magnum Grow (now known as Magnum Rose). I particularly like Magnum Rose because it has all the necessary macronutrients - nitrogen, phosphorus, and potassium (N-P-K) - as well as chelated micronutrients. It also contains magnesium sulfate (epsom salts) and a soil penetrant thus providing an all-in-one water-soluble concentrate. I am constantly experimenting with plant nutrition and always willing to try new products. I use fish emulsions and seaweed extracts plus plant tonics like Jump Start, a mixture of growth regulators, vitamins, and organic ingredients known to be beneficial to growing roses. These supplements work when used in modest amounts. Since water-soluble fertilizers are already in solution, they wash directly into the root zone initiating the immediate uptake of important nutrients. I cut the recommended dosages in quarters and apply weekly. You can find me on any Sunday evening stirring up a tasty nutrient cocktail in a blue five-gallon pail like an old moonshiner. I ladle out a

precise amount into each pot. This explains in large measure why these containerized roses out-perform garden plants in the short term.

**Insect and disease control:** I apply insect and disease controls every ten to fourteen days on the same schedule as the garden.

It takes about ten weeks for large roses in pots to bloom in the spring. If potted by April first, then the first flush will be in mid June without any help from me. I can speed up or retard blooming, to a degree, by moving the pots in and out of the shade. Although every variety has its own built-in genetic time clock, generally speaking, roses with fewer petals will bloom sooner than heavier petaled blooms. The weather becomes the wild card with heat and light accelerating the timetable. For instance, the roses in the Victorian Rose Garden in Roger Williams Park eight miles away in Providence with uninterrupted dawn-to-dusk sunlight will bloom 8-10 days sooner than those in my cool, shady garden. Limited sunlight is the major drawback in my garden. I trimmed away perimeter vegetation last winter around the garden to create corridors of sunlight and placed the benches in those corridors.



Passionate Kisses (photo by Star Roses <http://www.starroses.com/index.cfm>)

I select plants that have attractive, eye-catching blooms, outstanding foliage and symmetrical habits and then supersize them. While the program begins in April, the most noticeable improvement in the plants doesn't occur until mid-May when the air and soil temperatures become consistently warm. The roses respond to

*(continued on page 12)*



growth and showy displays of color, but occasionally I get an unexpected outcome. For instance, this year I potted up ‘Scarlet Meidiland’, a landscape rose with a sprawling, procumbent habit. I envisioned thousands of tiny, shiny leaves and great clusters of fiery red blooms cascading nicely out of a terra cotta pot. Instead I got a burly maverick that shot out heavy canes like roman candles every which way...a little too robust for a container. On the other hand, ‘Passionate Kisses’ matured slowly and steadily into a fabulous specimen by late June. This floribunda developed perfect symmetry with sprays of luminescent salmon pink and immaculate foliage. The blooms had incredible substance allowing them to hold for a week on the bush. I even entered it in a container class in the Newport Flower Show in late June. But most varieties are predictable and I eventually plant varieties that I like in the garden, especially if they are decorative shrub roses. The rest I sell.

There are many ways to enjoy rose gardening. For me, it is the pure horticulture of raising roses to be the best plants possible by providing each plant with all the essentials that it needs. Whether it is enjoying ‘Neptune’ leaping to the heavens or ‘Passionate Kisses’ quietly developing into an all star, each one is a super success in its own way.

Editor’s Note ‘Passionate Kisses’ won Best of Show in the Horticulture Division at the Newport Flower Show.

The Red River Rose Society is part of the **South Central District (SCD) of the ARS**. The SCD publishes a quarterly bulletin titled The Rosarian. Subscriptions are \$5 for four issues and can be purchased through Jackie Clark SCD Treasurer, 9683 Chelmsford, San Antonio, TX 78239. Send you check and email address so that you can receive The Rosarian online in a more timely fashion. Baxter Williams is the ARS Director of the SCD. He can be reached at H: 713-944-3437 E-mail : [Baxter Williams](mailto:Baxter.Williams).



The Knock Out Rose

## 2009 Top 10 Favorite Roses

By Carole Mainwaring

Contributors to the Our Gardens of Roses handbook nominated a grand total of 108 roses as their top 10 favorite roses. Those roses that made the final Top 10 received no higher than **four** votes. Most of the roses nominated received only one vote. This only proves what John Cook, American nurseryman and rose hybridizer, had to say when asked to pick his favorite rose, “It is like asking a mother which is her favorite child.” Several contributors expressed similar views when they said they could not narrow their choices down to only ten, nor could they be certain that their list today would be the same tomorrow.

Two roses received four votes each. One of the two was The Knock Out Rose. The other will be introduced in the March issue of Roses on the Red followed by the other eight roses over the course of this newsletter year. In addition to the original cherry red **Knock Out** with 5-7 petals, the family includes:

**The Double Knock Out Rose** with 18-25 deep cerise or cherry red petals;

**The Pink Knock Out Rose** with 7-11 bright pink petals;

**The Pink Double Knock Out Rose** with 18-24 bright, bubble gum pink petals;

**The Rainbow Knock Out Rose** with 5-7 coral pink with yellow-centered petals;

*(continued on page 13)*

**The Blushing Knock Out Rose** with 7-11 light pink petals;  
**Sunny Knock Out Rose** with 5-7 petals; and  
**White Out** with 6 petals.



White Out (photo by Star Roses  
<http://www.starroses.com> )

Knock Out Roses are highly favored as landscape plants because they are easy to grow and are very disease resistant. They have a generous bloom cycle and are self-cleaning (no deadheading necessary). William Radler, the hybridizer, used Applejack, Carefree Beauty, and Eddie's Crimson in his breeding program to achieve hardiness and resistance to blackspot. In 2000 The Knock Out rose received the All-American Rose Selection award and has gone on to become the best selling rose in America.



Getting Ready For the Meeting

**Valentine Roses** grown by Red River Rose Society Members are **Valentine** (grown by Jane Cantrell, Barb Grisham and Kathy Harris) and **Valentine Cupid** grown by Jane Cantrell.

**February – The  
 Perfect Time to  
 Join the ARS!**



ARS membership benefits include the **American Rose magazine**, the **American Rose Annual**, and the **Handbook for Selecting Roses**. Annual dues are \$49 (or \$46 for those 65 or older) with a three year membership of \$140. Associate membership for the spouse of a regular member is \$13.00. ARS also publishes four specialty quarterly bulletins for those with particular interest: **The Rose Exhibitors' Forum**, **The Old Garden Rose and Shrub Gazette**, **The Mini/Mini-Flora News**, and **The Rose Arrangers' Bulletin**. These bulletins are free to members online. Membership information can be found at <http://www.ars.org/Membership/joinars.html>



Drawing Winners: Ed Supina, Anita Cashin, Bob Wilson, and Carole Mainwaring



Anita, Sue, and Sandra sharing a rosy moment!

## The Red River Rose Society

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**Consulting Rosarians** are rose growers who have met the qualifications set by the ARS and are there to help you with your rose growing questions. Call on them when you have a need!

**Disclaimer** – The advice and information presented in Roses on the Red are believed to be true and accurate, but its Editors, the Red River Rose Society not any Member thereof can accept responsibility for any error or omission. The Red River Rose Society makes no warranty, expressed or implied, with respect to the material contained herein.

**Subscriptions** are available through membership in the Society. Membership is available to any person interested in growing roses. Monthly meetings are held in the Denison Public Library Meeting Room, 300 W. Gandy Street, Denison, TX 75020 (903-465-1797). Dues are \$20.00 per household per calendar year and should be mailed to Nancy Grella, Treasurer, 453 Friendship Rd., Sherman, TX 75092

Richard McGowan, Bill Cashin, Nancy Grella and Sue Abernathy: Charter Members and Officers from 2/20/07 to present

