



# Roses on the Red

Red River Rose Society



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>



June 2009

Volume 2, Number 6

## June Meeting: Arranging Roses

## President's Corner

*By Sue Abernathy*

**Date:** June 16 (third Tuesday of most months)  
**Time:** 5:30 pm Dinner with Speaker and Members at Devolli's Restaurant  
6:30 pm "Ask the Expert" Time  
7:00 pm Program  
**Program Location:** Denison Public Library Meeting Room

The view from the back porch was spectacular! The L-shaped bed contained more than 50 hybrid tea roses, including 'Peace' and 'Mister Lincoln', 'Tropicana' and 'Queen Elizabeth', 'Oklahoma', 'Chicago Peace' and 'Blue Moon'. They were all in my grandmother's rose garden in the mid 60's in her backyard in Kansas, plus many others. This was my first exposure to roses, and it made quite an impression.

We are very privileged to have **Elizabeth Baker** as our speaker for June! Elizabeth will demonstrate how to arrange roses in vases and floral foam. She has worked as a florist for 17 years, owning a florist shop in West Texas before moving to our area. For the past 10 years, she has worked at Wayside Florist. Using everything from our own gardens, Elizabeth will show us how to put together unique and beautiful floral arrangements. She loves working with clients and will make arranging roses easy for everyone—even the most artistically challenged! Come be inspired!

My parents also grew roses at my childhood home in San Antonio. They had 'Queen Elizabeth' and 'Tropicana' in beds surrounding the patio. Before the backyard was fenced, deer wandering out of the woods would help prune their roses. I guess if you are hungry enough, even something with thorns will do. After retiring in the early 80's, my dad took on the responsibility of caretaker of the roses at our church. He pruned, sprayed and fed the church roses with loving care, until his heart condition prevented him from doing so. Again these were all spectacular hybrid teas.

To say that my love of roses runs in the family is stating the obvious. I thought every yard was supposed to have hybrid teas planted somewhere in the landscape. At my first home in Lubbock, I planted 6 hybrid teas along the sidewalk leading to the front door. At my second home in Coppell, I planted 20 in a bed between my drive way and the neighbor's fence. My girls were

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very young at the time and with my job at TI, I did not have the time and energy to devote to maintaining my hybrid teas, so the rose bed soon yielded to grass. I do believe, however, that my rose garden provided inspiration to my neighbors, as roses were planted at several homes all along the driveway entrances in that Coppell alley.

When planning my Texoma garden, I swore off hybrid teas. In fact, I swore off any grafted rose and planned my garden around the Earth Kind and old garden roses. I have really enjoyed these rose classes, especially 'La Marne' and 'Sea Foam' and then of course 'Louis Philippe' and 'Souvenir de la Malmaison' are so beautiful each spring.



*New hybrid tea rose bed (Photo by S. Abernathy)*

Not until Joe and I built our house with a raised bed near the garage, did I reconsider planting grafted roses. I bought 10 bare root roses this spring from Jack Walter and planted them in late February. It took forever for them to leaf out and they are just now blooming, but those blooms are breathtaking! I especially like 'Tahitian Sunset' and 'Olympiad', not to mention the beautiful fading blooms of 'Rio Samba'. Yes, grafted roses, especially hybrid teas, require more care than the Earth Kind or old garden roses, but I'm once again a believer that is it worth the extra effort. I know that my dad and grandmother are smiling down on me saying, "I'm so glad that she didn't give up! Look at those picture perfect roses!"



*'Olympiad'*

*(Photo by S. Abernathy)*

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## RRRS Happenings

*By Richard McGowan and Nancy Grella*

The "laziest gardener in Texas" was the guest speaker at the regular May meeting of the Red River Rose Society in Denison Public Library last Tuesday evening. **Peter Schaar**, garden designer, horticultural consultant, and specialist in waterwise, low maintenance gardens, told members he occasionally feeds his pot garden, rarely waters it, and never sprays it.

Peter showed slides of his spectacular garden in Dallas which is almost entirely in pots, some terra cotta, some blue glazed, and some plastic. He's proud of the many low maintenance plants he has found mostly in Mexico. Many of them are cacti, and many of them old garden roses. "A lawn is really a useless thing," he said. "They take up too much water, too much fertilizer, too much money and too much time."

Peter described his potting soil mix and how he cares for his plants in pots from year to year. He encouraged members to try new and different plants. "Plants don't read books," he said, "and things that shouldn't work because of climate or soil conditions sometimes do very well, despite what the books say."

Old Garden Roses are considered to be those that existed before 1867 when the first hybrid tea, 'La

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France', was presented to the world. These older roses Peter prefers because they are not so fussy. His garden includes 'Dame de Coeur' (Lady of Courage); 'Vincent Godsif', a Bermuda rose; 'Bon Silene'; 'Cramoisi Superieur' (both bush and climber); and 'Texas Centennial'.



*Barb Grisham, Cherry Cunningham, Mike Murphy, Shirley Sexton, Ann Supina, Wanda Wilson, Phyllis Lawrence, Bob Wilson and Jeremiah Davis with their roses!*  
(Photo by Gerald Frimann)

President Sue Abernathy and Secretary Nancy Grella oversaw the giving away of about twenty roses, some as prizes in the monthly draw and some as joining gifts to new members. Raffle winner of the rose given to a member who brings roses for the library staff was **Barb Grisham**. Drawing winners were **Cherry Cunningham, Wanda Wilson, Phyllis Lawrence, Ed Supina, Mike Murphy, Stanley Henderson, Shirley Sexton, Jeremiah Davis and Sue Zanne Petersen**. Welcome to new member **D. J. Rinier!**



*Cherry Cunningham, new RRRS member!*  
(Photo by Gerald Frimann)

Our website, [www.redriverrosesociety.com](http://www.redriverrosesociety.com) needs articles from members about their experiences growing roses. Photos of roses and rose gardens are especially desired. Please send articles and pictures to Jerry Haynes at [jhaynes@texband.net](mailto:jhaynes@texband.net) or Jeremiah Davis at [jeremiahdavis@gmail.com](mailto:jeremiahdavis@gmail.com)

Red River Rose Society members won't meet in July and August. That's their time to sit back and smell the roses! Meetings will resume on Tuesday, September 15, with a presentation on soils, mulches, and compost by Soil Building Systems owner **Baron Abalon**. We will also have dinner at a new location starting in September: **Tony's Main Street Cafe**. 309 W. Main, Denison, Texas.

Please bring any rose questions you might have to the June meeting so that these can be written down on 3 x 5 inch cards. These cards will be collected and given to the Consulting Rosarian panel members who will be answering them at the October meeting. This will be a great opportunity for sharing ideas about rose selection, care, etc! Differing points of view and methods should make this meeting lively!

Many members brought roses fresh cut from their own gardens which were donated to the library after the meeting. Remember to bring your blooms to each meeting to share with the library staff and visitors. This is a great opportunity to share our roses with the public!



*Beautiful roses for the library staff!*  
(Photo by G.Frimann)

## South Central District News

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).

## Rosebuds



*Vicki Agee and her granddaughter Helen, age 7, at the Dallas Rose Show preparing a spray for entry. Vicki is training Helen and her sister Claire, age 8, on how to show roses. (Photo by C. Hayward)*

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## Events Calendar

**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)

**June 30: ARS Children's Essay Contest** for children ages 12 and younger. Information can be

found on <http://www.ars.org/Contests/essay-contest.html>

**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)

**Sept. 15: RRRS Meeting**, 7:00 p.m. Baron Abalon from Soil Building Systems will give a presentation on soils, mulches, and compost.

**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 time and details at 972-727-3007.

**October 20: RRRS Meeting**, 7:00 p.m. Panel discussion featuring RRRS consulting rosarians answering your questions and sharing their ideas on rose selection, care, and enjoyment.

**October 23-25: South Central District and Rose Show** in Houston, TX. Contact Dan Lawlor, Show Chair for more information at [dplawlor@pdq.net](mailto:dplawlor@pdq.net) or 281-343-9422.

**November 7: RRRS Fall Seminar**. Topics and additional information will be forthcoming.

**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)

**November 17: RRRS Meeting** at 7:00 p.m. Mike Becker will be the speaker.

**November 27: ARS 2009 Photography Contest** for members. Contact Paul Colombo at 313-881-5127 or [pjcolombol@comcast.net](mailto:pjcolombol@comcast.net) for details.

Make your vote count in the **ARS Triennial Elections**. Send in your ballot found in the latest May/June 2009 American Rose magazine or go to the ARS website at <http://www.ars.org/index.html> and vote electronically. Let your voice be heard!



*Stacy O'Connor with a bouquet of David Austin 'Othello' roses. (Photo by C. Mainwaring)*

## June Rosarian Spotlight:

### Stacy O'Connor

*By Carole Mainwaring*

If you have been on any garden tours this spring in the Lake Texoma area, chances are you visited one or more gardens thriving under Stacy O'Connor's tender loving care. Stacy makes it her business and her joy to keep her own garden and her clients' gardens healthy and attractive. She is a landscape designer and installer, but she prefers to do the finishing and maintenance. That way she can keep an eye on 'her' roses and ensure that they continue to receive the best of everything! Oh, don't we all wish for someone like Stacy to help us tend our roses.

#### ***Why do you grow roses?***

I am always growing something, trying new plants all the time, and for me there is no flower as beautiful as a rose. It fills me with much joy and happiness to be in my rose garden.

#### ***What classes of roses do you grow?***

I have David Austin English roses, Hybrid Teas, Tea Roses, Floribundas, Large-Flowered Climbers, Minis, Noisettes, Polyanthas, Ramblers, and Shrubs.

#### ***How do you care for your roses?***

I use a combination of organics and chemicals. I use alfalfa based fertilizers and blood meal monthly and broadcast a 4-1-2 ratio lawn /garden

fertilizer in the spring. I spray for fungus 1 to 2 times a month (fertilome systemic fungicide) depending on the season. I spray for insects only as needed to save the toads that love my garden as much as I do. I am very fond of toads! They eat the insects that feed on my roses.

#### ***What are your favorite roses?***

My favorites are the English roses, particularly 'Heritage'. A wonderfully feminine and graceful floribunda is 'Heaven on Earth', and the rich red of climbing 'Don Juan' is hard to beat.

#### ***Do you have a favorite rose resource that you feel has impacted you greatly and your love of roses?***

The internet is a great resource for rosarians. I just type in a rose name or problem, and always find an answer. My top places to visit are:

<http://ars.org/index.html>

<http://helpmefind.com/plant/plants.php>

<http://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/>



*'Heritage', David Austin shrub rose, 1985*

*(Photo by Stacy O'Connor)*

#### ***How many roses do you grow?***

I presently have 84 rose bushes of 39 varieties. Some of my roses are: 'Heritage', 'Abraham Darby', 'Mary Rose', 'The Dark Lady', 'Tamora', 'Charlotte', 'Gertrude Jekyll', 'Pat Austin', 'Golden Celebration', 'Christian Dior', 'Falling In Love', 'In The Mood', 'Tiffany', 'Mirandy', 'Lady Bird', 'Madame Antoine Mari', 'Mrs Dudley Cross', 'Heaven On Earth', 'Hot Cocoa', 'Pretty Lady', 'Livin' Easy',

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'Intrigue', 'Don Juan', 'New Dawn', 'Regina Lee', 'Dr Troy Garret', 'Lamarque', 'Marie Pavie', 'Perle d'Or', 'Albertine', 'Belinda's Dream', 'Carefree Beauty', 'Pink Knock Out'(standard or tree rose), and 'Double Red Knock Out'. I also grow several unknown varieties of minis in true red, dark red, yellow, salmon and a peach blend. They are all from Calloway's Nursery.



*'Heaven on Earth', floribunda, 2001  
(Photo by Stacy O'Connor)*

***What is the best advice you would give to a novice rose grower?***

Choose a rose(s) that is well suited for the zone you live in and that requires minimal care. Always purchase robust looking plants with no visible disease and consider own root roses where available.

***What secret tip would you be willing to share about growing roses?***

Use lots of blood meal throughout the growing season. I also like to use blue scabiosa as a companion plant with my roses. The blue or white is better than the pink which is less robust.

***How long have you been growing roses?***

I have been growing roses 39 years. I picked out and planted my first roses climbing 'Don Juan' and 'Pascali' in Brockton MA in 1970. 'Don Juan' is more handsome there than here, and Pascali gave me fits! (It didn't like the cold.) 'Don Juan' is still there today, 'Pascali' gave up.



*'Don Juan', large-flowered climber, 1958  
(Photo by Stacy O'Connor)*

***Do you do something out-of-the-ordinary with roses?***

I take care of several hundred rose bushes in the Sherman area and Gainesville year round for hire. From site selection, to planting, fertilizing, spraying, pruning and always enjoying, I take care of each rose as if it were my own.

***What is the funniest experience that you have had growing roses?***

Two years ago I was spraying my roses for fungus when my daughter and grandsons stopped by for a visit. The boys thought it was interesting that I was cooling off the roses. I told them it would make them the best looking roses in all of Sherman. They wanted to help, so while Al and I were inside, Tyler sprayed the fungicide, and Cody followed spraying them with Roundup mixed in another sprayer. Roses DO NOT like being sprayed with Roundup! The roses grew out of the damage, but were almost leafless for about 6 weeks.

***Any final advice you would like to offer?***

Anyone can grow roses. Don't be afraid!

**Joe Abernathy's Shear Sharpening Service**

Remember to bring your pruners, loppers, and scissors to the June meeting so that Joe Abernathy can sharpen and oil them for you. You can retrieve your shears at the September 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!

# Can You Believe It, A Second All-American Rose Selection Test Garden for Texas?

*By Bill Cashin*

Until recently the All-American Rose Selection (AARS) had 22 test gardens across the United States with one located in Tyler, Texas. Now Texas has two AARS test gardens with Farmers Branch, Texas being the 23rd location for an AARS test garden.(1) AARS roses include some of the most popular in history: ‘Peace’ (1946), ‘Mister Lincoln’ (1965), ‘Double Delight’ (1977), ‘Knock Out’ (2000), ‘Hot Cocoa’ (2003) and ‘Julia Child’ (2006). At nurseries, AARS roses are identified by their signature red-rose tag.



*Farmers Branch Historical Park All-American Rose Selection Test Garden (Photo by Bill Cashin)*

The AARS trial program has existed since 1938, and there currently are 23 test gardens nationwide, representing all climate zones. AARS winning roses embody all of the characteristics today’s homeowners desire in a garden plant. Each AARS winning roses excelled in an extensive two-year trial program where it is judged on everything from disease resistance to flower production, color and fragrance. (2)

Each AARS test garden has a judging panel that participates in the bi-annual scoring process. In this ‘blind process’, judges do not know the breeder or introducer for the plants they’re

grading, and they’re asked to submit scores by serial number. In the test gardens, the roses are carefully evaluated on a number of criteria. In fact, the judges put many hours of observation into monitoring the performance of the top roses throughout the growing season. They grade each rose on the following characteristics: novelty; form – both buds and open blooms; color throughout the blooming cycle; aging quality; flowering effect; fragrance; stem/cluster form; plant habit; vigor; foliage; disease resistance; and repeat bloom quality.

The plants are identified only by numbered tags; judges are not told who the breeders are or the companies they represent. Test roses put in the beds this year will be evaluated for two years, and the eventual winner — or winners, as is more often the case — will be introduced to the public in 2013.

A few of the plants have started to bloom. One of the first was a warm red hybrid tea tagged only with the code 08R203.



*(Photos by Bill Cashin)*

Each has something different to offer. It’s sort of  
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like Christmas morning when they start to open up. It's a great way to see the future. The roses are grouped by type: hybrid teas (numbered 200s); grandifloras (300s); floribundas (400s); and landscape, or shrub roses, (500s).

Each AARS test garden has a small panel of judges keeping an eye on the test plants for eventual judging on the key characteristics. **And they won't be pampered.** The test roses don't get special treatment. The idea is to give them the same amount of care the average home gardener would give. AARS members recently voted to remove fungicidal spraying from the testing process, starting this year, to ensure that the winners are top performers without any help.

### Congratulations Farmers Branch!



1. (See <http://www.ci.farmers-branch.tx.us/play/coming-roses/all-america-rose-selection-test-garden> for more information.)
2. (See <http://www.rose.org/> for more information on the AARS)

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### Flag Day: Stars 'n' Stripes



A Ralph Moore miniature rose , 1976, 18-23 petals, moderate sweet fragrance, bush 16-20 inches tall, (Photo by Heirloom Roses <http://www.heirloomroses.com> )



Blackspot on rose leaves (Photo from <http://urbanext.illinois.edu/hortanswers/detailproblem.cfm?PathogenID=6> (continued on page 9)

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

By Carole Mainwaring

*“What is the point of growing a rose in the first place if you just admire it in passing?”*

Henry Mitchell, *One Man's Garden*

Spring is such a busy time with garden tours and rose events that I always look forward to June. There is finally more time to sit a spell and enjoy the garden. This year the heavy rains and cooler weather of April and May gave us such lush growth and beautiful, intense bloom colors. The fragrances now that the days are warmer and sunnier are more powerful, too. It is said that roses in moist soil smell the sweetest. Roses that are mildewed or blooming in cold, overcast days have little to no scent. So hurrah for 16+ inches of rain in my garden during the months of April and May and sunnier and warmer days now!

The down side to lots of rain and cloudy, humid weather is blackspot and powdery mildew. If you see blackspot on your leaves, you will need to use a blackspot contact killer such as Mancozeb or Manzate to eradicate the blackspot. Blackspot is a fungus that shows up as small black spots on the upper leaf surfaces and canes. These circular spots have feathery edges and are black and sooty at first. Later yellow margins will appear around the spot. If left untreated the bush may defoliate and some canes will show irregular purple red, raised blotches.

In order for blackspot to develop, the leaves must be wet for at least seven hours. This is why overhead watering during the late evening and nighttime hours is not recommended. It is also why good air circulation is critical since the leaves stand a better chance of drying more quickly. Providing good air circulation is a must if you choose to spray infrequently or never for blackspot. To eradicate blackspot, you may have to spray every three days for three intervals to get the upper hand in your garden. Spray the top and bottom of the leaves and across the bed. Once you do this, then spraying with a preventative like Banner Maxx, Honor Guard, or Funginex is recommended. Time your spraying so that the leaves can dry before nightfall.



*Powdery mildew on roses* (Photo by <http://www.ces.purdue.edu/extmedia/BP/BP-5-W.pdf>)

Powdery mildew is more serious in dry climates like California where temperatures are around 71 degrees F. with 98% relative humidity. Powdery mildew is usually not a problem once temperatures rise above 90 degrees F. or the bush is kept wet. Cool damp nights and warm sunny days provide favorable conditions for the development of powdery mildew. To eradicate powdery mildew, use a product like Aliette or Immunox. Mancozeb is not as effective with powdery mildew as it is with blackspot. Lime sulfur is a good protectant fungicide when used on bushes when they are dormant. It may burn the leaves when temperatures are warm. I apply lime sulfur in December or January.

Hot, dry weather brings the mighty mite—a most unwelcome garden visitor. Look for yellow leaves on the lower third of your bush. Be sure you continue to use your water wand every other day blasting the undersides of rose leaves where the mite is found. Mites (not really insects but related to the spider) love temperatures above 70 degrees and will suck the life out of rose leaves causing the leaves to look bronzed, curl, and drop. Silky webbing may be found on the lower surfaces of the leaves or on new growth. Rose bushes become weak and will not produce many blooms. Spraying for mites will help but remember to change miticides occasionally to prevent the mites from becoming resistant to a particular chemical. Last year I used Floramite twice in the summer and saw an immediate reduction in mites.



*Spider mites damage to a leaf* (Photo by <http://www.extension.umn.edu/GardenInfo/diagnostics/annualperennial/roses/leavesdiscolored.html>)

Thrips continue to be a nuisance. I like to use Merit as a soil drench (Bayer All-in-One). You can also use Bayer Dual Action Rose and Flower Insect Killer or Orthene or Conserve.

The upside to approaching summer is that heat is tough on fungal diseases unless the foliage stays wet for over seven hours. Remember that the heat is tough on us, too. So don't work in the garden too long, too hard, at noon, and take lots of breaks to cool down. Admire your roses for long spells from under a lawn umbrella while sitting and sipping! (continued on page 10)

### June Rose Calendar

- Make sure your roses receive 1-2 inches of water weekly, especially as the days turn warmer and drier. Potted roses will need to be watered more often than planted roses.
- Weed and clean beds (so much fun in the sun!)
- Fertilize every two weeks with a complete rose fertilizer. Water well before applying fertilizer and after applying to soak the fertilizer into the soil. Liquid fertilizers are good this time of year.
- Spray for diseases on a consistent basis and insects only as needed. Ortho Rose-Pride Rose and Shrub Disease Control will prevent blackspot but not eradicate it. Use Mancozeb once a week with the Rose Pride for 3-4 weeks to eradicate blackspot. Always water 10-12 hours before spraying to prevent spray burn on leaves.
- Immunox is a good spray for powdery mildew at this time of year.
- Reapply mulch if this has not been done earlier in the spring to keep at least 3-4 inches over the beds.
- Remove spent blooms but leave as much foliage on the bush as possible. Cut the stems shorter during the summer months so you don't cut off too many leaves.
- If your foliage looks pale green, apply chelated iron to your roses.
- Enjoy your blooms and share them with others!

### Sump Pump Magic!

*By Debra Bagley*

A few years back Johnny Becnel, told me I needed to spray my roses with Ohstrom's Garden Maxicrop® for best results. (In his mind, best results equated to winning rose shows. Johnny was a great exhibitor and was more than fond of show roses.) Johnny said he was able to retire early because he had used Maxicrop® on his tomatoes each time he watered. I am always on the lookout for great advice and admired Johnny for his beautiful roses and his willingness to share his experience. (I also enjoyed his

colorful witticisms! But that's another story for another time.)

I dutifully purchased the Maxicrop® as suggested in a local farm store. So what exactly is Maxicrop®? If you read the label, it isn't much of anything. According to their website, Maxicrop® is liquefied kelp extract that is extracted from fresh Norwegian ascophyllum kelp. It has been shown to be a growth stimulant and can provide increased resistance to frost and drought. Maxicrop® is a great source of trace elements and enzymes.



I've been using Maxicrop® for several years now and like the results that I see. Until recently I used a syphonix to mix the Maxicrop® and water. Getting the syphonix to work was always a challenge. It would take me at least an hour to get it working correctly. My frustrations grew along with my vocabulary. One hot afternoon, my dear husband thought there was a sailor out in the yard instead of his lovely, sweet wife as I struggled to get the darn thing working. In disgust, I stormed off to the local big box thinking of my experiences back east living in a home on the Great South Bay. There it was customary to build a depression in the basement for a sump pump. As the tide rose, so did the water in the basement. I reasoned if it had worked in my basement, why couldn't it work for my liquid fertilizer. I purchased both a sump pump (the cheapest I could find) and a 30 gallon, wheeled, garbage can. One word of caution – don't buy your pump in the pond section – the big box store thinks people who put in ponds have more money than those who use sump pumps. While sump pump is not an especially attractive name, it's cheaper.

I mixed a 30 gallon Maxicrop® solution and  
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dropped the sump pump in the garbage pail, adjusted the hose end nozzle and plugged it in. Nirvana at last! Using a recycled gallon milk jug, I counted out the time to fill the jug so I would know how much to apply to each rose bush. I can't tell you how much time using a sump pump has saved me. I can fertilize all 250 roses in less than an hour. (Not to mention restoring my sanity.)

It's easy to set it up and use.

- Mix the fertilizer at the recommended strength in the container.
- Attach the female hose end to the sump pump and drop the sump pump in the container.
- Select a hose end nozzle. The old brass model works well for me.
- Plug the sump pump into either an extension cord or electrical outlet.
- If you buy the cheap sump pump, don't let it run dry as you'll burn out the motor.
- When you are finished, pump some plain water through the sump pump to clean it out.



*Here's the sump pump that I use in my garden.  
(Photos by Debra Bagley)*

The hose is attached to the sump pump. The liquid fertilizer is pumped out of the container.

*(This article was first published in the October 2007 Collin County Petals and Thorns newsletter. Photos by Debra Bagley.)*



Notice there are two hoses in this picture. The green hose is connected to the faucet. The reddish brown hose is connected to the sump pump. To refill the container, I use the green hose. This is a 30 gallon pail from which I can fertilize approximately 30 average sized rose bushes.

I also add iron to my liquid fertilizer this time of year. Be careful, if you apply iron to your blooms, they will look like the picture below. Certainly not the most attractive bloom!



I attribute the health and vigor of my roses to the liquid fertilizing that I do on a regular basis!





**'Veterans' Honor'**

(Photo from Jackson & Perkins  
<http://www.jacksonandperkins.com> )

## 2009 Top 10 Favorite RRRS Roses

*By Carole Mainwaring*

'Veterans' Honor' tied with two other roses for third place in the RRRS Top 10 Favorite Roses. It is classified as a dark red hybrid tea rose by the American Rose Society. With four other names, 'Veterans' Honor' was first known as 'Five Roses Rose'. 'Veterans' Honor' was hybridized by Dr. Keith W. Zary and introduced as 'Five Roses Rose' by Ludwig's Roses in 1995 in South Africa and as 'Veterans' Honor' by Jackson & Perkins in 2000. Its flowers are a bright, true red with overtones of pastel pink as they age. The blooms are typically 5-5 ½ inches, with 25-30 velvety, thick petals. The blooms can last up to two weeks in a vase making 'Veterans' Honor' a great rose for the home table or show table. The bloom is high-centered and born mostly one to a stem. There is a slight, raspberry fragrance. The foliage is dark green and semi-glossy. 'Veterans' Honor received a RIR rating of 8.1. 10% of the net sales from J&P 2000 Rose of the Year® winner supports American veterans' health care.

RRRS members growing 'Veterans' Honor' are Bill Cashin, Ilene Cook, Kathy Harris, Jerry Haynes, and Carole Mainwaring. The Editor planted this rose in memory of her father, a WWII Bronze Star with oak leaf cluster recipient. This rose is indeed worthy of its name!

**June**  
**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/>

## Editor's Desk

*By Carole Mainwaring*

As you enjoy your garden or visit public gardens, please take lots of pictures to send me for the newsletter. Include your children, grandchildren, and pets along with your roses! I also welcome any articles you may want to write or suggest. This newsletter is only as good as it meets the needs of each and every member of our Society.

Questions, pictures, articles, and suggestions can be sent to the editor at [cmainwak5@aol.com](mailto:cmainwak5@aol.com) or [cmainwak5@verizon.net](mailto:cmainwak5@verizon.net) .

There will be an issue of Roses on the Red sent in July which will contain information for the months of July and August. Since we are not meeting during these two months, this issue will help us stay connected.

Have you noticed how many great rosarians are/were men? This Father's Day surprise your Dad and all the dads you admire with a rose and a hug. Even if they are not gardeners, they'll be delighted!



ARS Gold (Queen), 'Cajun Moon', Ed and Jo Ann Bradley (photo by C. Mainwaring)

## Beauty and the Rose Judge

By Carole Mainwaring

Last weekend I learned that there are roses and there are ROSES.

Carolyn Hayward, Debra Bagley and I attended the American Rose Society and South Central District Horticulture Rose Judging School hosted by the Golden Triangle Rose Society. Carolyn attended for accredited judges' recertification which is required every four years. Debra and I, like lambs to the slaughter, applied for Apprentice Rose Judging Certification. Little did we know what was in store for us!

We arrived in time for the Social on Friday and were warmly greeted and encouraged to relax and enjoy the next two days by judges there, like Carolyn, needing to renew their certification. We made new friends and felt very buoyed up by the judges who reminisced about their first attempts taking the Judging Test. *Attempts??*

We found out we were the only two who would be actually taking the test the following day. A few others had come to audit the school for a look-see, but not take the test. We began to worry that this test was going to be a bit more challenging than the Consulting Rosarian open-book exam!

Our speakers on Saturday were the cream of the crop. The morning was spent in a lecture format, and in the afternoon we had actual hands-on participation similar to lab practicals. Our morning speakers included Bert Wheeler talking about the philosophy of the school and ethics of

judging. Ed Bradley walked us through anatomy and identification, types and classes of roses, and disqualifications and penalizations. Eddie Garcia explained the six prime elements of judging: form, color, substance, stem and foliage, balance and proportion, and size. Jackie Clark reviewed judging one-bloom-per-stem hybrid teas, miniatures and mini-floras. Tommy Hebert gave details on judging floribunda and hybrid tea sprays. Marilyn Wellan (past president of ARS) inspired us to judge old garden roses and shrubs with enthusiasm and seriousness. Don and Paula Adlong motivated us to judge challenge classes with care.

In the afternoon we had four sessions. The first session had us judging large roses: same variety; judging for Queen; and ranking and point scoring. In the second session, we had to demonstrate and discuss situations requiring penalizations and disqualifications. In session three, we judged one-bloom-per-stem miniatures and mini-floras. We judged for Queen and ranking. The last session had us judging floribunda, hybrid tea, and miniature and mini-flora sprays using ranking and point scoring.

After that full day, it was back to the books! We studied the Guidelines For Judging Roses until our eyes were crossed! The following morning we spent four hours taking the tests. Part one was a written test and part two was a practical test. I am still in recovery!

I think the most important message I got from the weekend was "judging through the search for beauty first". Judging is not about looking for flaws or penalizations, or even disqualifications. Judges should first look for the beauty of each rose and its total impact. Wow! I think I fell in love with judging right then. Don't we all grow roses because of their unique beauty? To be able to see that beauty with a trained eye is my goal. I think Debra and I made a big reach for that goal this past weekend. Pass or fail, the weekend was worth the trip. I won't forget the friendships made, the support given, and the exemplary quality of the workshop! Queen of Show for a weekend well spent! (*P.S., We hope we passed!*)

## 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



Ann Supina, Cherry Cunningham, Ron Cunningham,  
and Stacy O'Connor (Photo by Gerald Frimann)



'Red Intuition'  
(Photo by Carolyn Hayward)