March Meeting: “David Austin’s English Roses”

Date: March 16 (Third Tuesday of most months)
Time: 5:30 pm Dinner with Speaker and Members at Tony's Main Street Café, 309 W. Main, Denison, TX
6:30 pm Fellowship
7:00 pm Program
Program Location: Denison Public Library Meeting Room

Dr. Don Johnson grows approximately 500 roses in Sapulpa, Oklahoma including 65 varieties of David Austin English Roses. His garden is a regional trial garden for Austin’s roses in America. Both Don and his wife Brenda have been growing roses for about 19 years and are Master Consulting Rosarians. You’ll want these roses in your garden once you hear his program!

President’s Corner
By Sue Abernathy

Just when I think I know what to do with my roses, I learn something new from one of our guest speakers, a fellow Red River Rose Society member, or from a Roses on the Red newsletter article. I think that is why I love the RRRS so much: I thirst for knowledge about all things related to gardening, especially roses, and it quenches that thirst.

Speaking of a learning opportunity, the February seminars were once again a great success. Over 20 people attended each of the seminars and it wasn’t the same 20, so this makes me think I'm not alone in my quest for rose knowledge. Although I missed Carole Mainwaring’s presentation on "Carefree Roses", I was able to view her powerpoint presentation and was impressed with the many roses, including those deemed EarthKind, that do well in this area. I added eight Dr. Griffith Buck roses to my garden last spring, and I'm planning to add nine David Austin English roses this spring. Next year I may add some Texas Pioneer roses. I love adding new roses in my garden. I just hope willing RRRS members will be around in future years when I require help pruning each spring!

"Waking up Your Roses" was also very informative. Richard McGowan started the morning with a pruning demonstration. I heard gasps from the audience and looks of amazement (continued on page 2)
as he hacked away the four [or five] D's: dead, damaged, diseased, dinky (less than a pencil in diameter) and [decrépit (woody)] canes on two different container roses. A fellow RRRS member was concerned that there wasn't much rose remaining when Richard's job was completed, but I assured her that pruning is actually good for roses. Gerald Frimann and Jerry Haynes provided details on planting both container and bare root roses. I don't like digging large holes, but Gerald said the hole needs to be much larger than the container to allow the rose roots to spread out and grow correctly. Jerry reminded us that roses require at least 6 to 8 hours of direct sun, good air circulation and amended soil to grow well. Both gentlemen emphasized the importance of bed preparation and encouraged everyone to spend as much money on soil amendments as you spend on the rose. I concluded the morning reviewing rose diseases and the various sucking and chewing insects that attack roses and how to defend against these diseases and pests. If you failed to capture the reference on fungicides, insecticides and miticides, or missed the seminar entirely, please refer to "A Ros-E-IQ" by Robert B. Martin Jr. at http://www.rosemania.com/roseiq.pdf This article is very informative and provides a good selection of products from which to choose for your spraying program.

Thanks to all of the members who spread the word about our seminars and monthly meetings. Since the first of the year, 10 new members have joined RRRS and many more have renewed their membership for 2010. Keep up the good work!

RRRS Happenings

By Richard McGowan and Nancy Grella

Returning guest speaker at our February meeting was Mark Stelljes, owner of Roses, inc. Tulsa in Broken Arrow, OK. He discussed the pruning of climbing rose bushes, advising us to wait until the forsythia blooms in the spring before pruning, but completing the task by mid-April. Diseased, dead or tiny branches/canes should be cut first, then Mark explained how to prune and tie climbers to arbors, fences and brick houses. The year's first fertilization of rose bushes also needs to be in April. Nitrogen must be replaced annually, and any fertilizer should not be buried too deeply in the soil. Mark answered a variety of rose questions and discussed in detail how to care for climbers during the year.

RRRS’s two Spring Seminars on Feb. 13 and 20 at Eisenhower's Birthplace in Denison were well attended, very well received, and resulted in several new members! Way to go presenters and participants! Door prizes went to Jerry & Vickie White (Sweetheart Rose and Rose Tone Fertilizer); Sue Zanne Petersen (2010 David Austin English Roses Calendar); Patsy Powell (Calendar); Cherry Cunningham (Fertilizer); Jim Rogers (‘Martha Gonzales’ Rose); Beverly Henderson (‘Knock Out’ rose). ‘Red Cascade’ roses propagated by Sue Zanne Petersen were given as door prizes at the Feb. 20 Seminar and went to Ann Supina and Marilyn Daniels. Membership now stands at 58.

Congratulations to Ed Supina for correctly identifying the error in the picture found in the February Consulting Rosarian Report. The (continued on page 3)
pruners were held incorrectly in the picture. The sharp cutting blade of your pruners should always be down toward the roots with the thicker blade contacting the part of the stem that is being cut away. This results in a sharper cut on the stem that is being left, reducing injury to the plant.

Be sure to pre-order your roses for the Annual Rose Sale on Saturday, April 24, by submitting your pre-order form at the March 16 RRRS meeting.

A field trip to Tyler, known as the "Rose Capital of the World," is planned for May 5. After visiting Tyler's rose gardens, members will have a chance to buy rose bushes at one or two of the Tyler rose nurseries.

Welcome New 2010 RRRS Members!

Lauren Brown
Mary Crabtree
Marilyn Daniels
Sharon Golightly
Barb Palmer
Patsy Powell
Helen Reynolds
John Spears
Roeann Vaughan
Trudy West
Jerry and Vickie White

We look forward to getting to know you and your roses better!

What a Great Group of Members!

Carole Lindsteadt

http://redriverrosesociety.com/
Our wonderful website has had 416 visitors from 23 foreign countries and five continents since January 1, 2010. Viewed were 790 pages with the Gallery being a very popular page. New information and photos are continually being uploaded, so take a look often. Don’t miss seeing the snow photos on the Home Page, Shirley and Emery Sexton’s garden page, and photos from the Farmer’s Branch Rose Gardens. They will take your breath away!
**March 12-13, 2010:** Oklahoma Mid-Winter Workshop. Contact Renee Niklas, 12816 Oak Hill Drive, Piedmont, OK 73078 at soonerd2000@sbcglobal.net

**March 16, 2010:** RRRS Meeting. Dr. Don Johnson will be speaking on David Austin English Roses.

**April 17, 2010:** Dedication of Legacy of Legends Garden. Chambersville Heritage Rose Garden, Chambersville, TX. Contact Claude Graves for more information at claude.graves@att.net.

**April 17, 2010:** San Antonio Rose Show. Contact Curtis Noble for more information at csnoble@sbcglobal.net

**April 17-18, 2010:** Houston Rose Show and Tour. Contact Dan Lawlor for more information at dplawlor@pdq.net

**April 20, 2010:** RRRS Meeting. Claude Graves will be speaking on the history of old garden roses.

**April 24, 2010:** Second Annual Earth Day Festival and Rose Sale on the grounds of the Municipal Building in Sherman at 405 North Rusk, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

**April 24, 2010:** Ft. Worth Rose Show to be held at the Ft. Worth Botanic Gardens. Contact Herschel Foertner at hforcf@aol.com

**April 24-25, 2010:** ARS Spring National Convention and Show in Shreveport, LA. Contact person is Mary Walker at 318-965-4153 or marycookwalker@bellsouth.net

**May 5, 2010:** Tyler, TX Rose Garden and Nursery Fieldtrip. Details will be forthcoming from Sue Abernathy, President RRRS.

**May 8, 2010:** Dallas Rose Show to be held at the Dallas Arboretum. Contact Ken Cotter at kencotter@hotmail.com

**May 18, 2010:** RRRS Meeting. Jack Walter will be speaking on “Growing Roses for Market” and “Rose Defense”.

**May 29, 2010:** Liberty Fest at Farmers Branch, TX. Three of the six ladies who wrote the book on tea roses, *Tea Roses: Old Roses for Warm Gardens*, will be speaking at Farmers Branch Recreation Center, 14050 Heartside Place at 6:30 p.m. Contact Claude Graves for more information at claude.graves@att.net or Pam Smith at pam.smith@farmersbranch.info

**May 29, 2010:** Tulsa, OK Rose Show. Contact Don Johnson at no1roseman@aol.com for more information.

**May 29, 2010:** Oklahoma City, OK Rose Show. Contact Renee Niklas for more information at soonerd2000@sbcglobal.net

**June 15, 2010:** RRRS Meeting. Sandra Haynes will be speaking on making rose potpourri.

**June 30, 2010:** ARS Children’s Essay Contest Deadline. Contact Lisa Butler, Associate Editor, at lisa@ars-hq.org for information.

**Aug. 20-22, 2010:** National Miniature Rose Show and Conference. Milwaukee, WI. Contact person is Diane Sommers at 262-781-7989 or dsrosenut@wi.rr.com

**September 21, 2010:** RRRS Meeting. Barb Grisham will be speaking on “Rose Companion Complements.”
March 12, 2010
Reception Dinner, Will Rogers Park, 3400 N.W. 36th St., Oklahoma City, OK

March 13, 2010
Oklahoma State University, Oklahoma City Campus, 900 N. Portland, Oklahoma City, OK

Sessions
ARS Update (Jeff Wyckoff, Pres. of ARS),
SCD Update (Baxter Williams),
Rose Care Product Update (Bayer Representative),
Fabulous Floribundas (Jeff Wyckoff),
Rose Nutrition (Don Adlong),
New Rose Introductions (Carol Shockley)
Award-Winning Roses from the UK (Jeff Wyckoff)

NAME (s)_______________________________
SOCIETY_______________________________
ADDRESS______________________________
CITY______________STATE______________
PHONE NUMBER_______________________
EMAIL ADDRESS_______________________

Registration fee is $45.00 per person in advance, $50.00 at the door. Fee includes lunch and break refreshments. Make checks payable to ORS, and mail registration and check to Renee Niklas, 12816 Oak Hill Drive, Piedmont, OK 73078

For your convenience, we have arranged a block of rooms at the Clarion Meridian Hotel, 737 S. Meridian Ave, OKC, OK 73108, 405-942-8511, for the nights of March 12th and 13th. The rate will be $69.00 per night if you mention that you are with the Rose Society. Otherwise, it will be about another $25.00.

Joe Abernathy’s Shear Sharpening Service
Remember to bring your pruners, loppers, and scissors to the March meeting so that Joe Abernathy can sharpen and oil them for you. You can retrieve your shears at the April 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!
Rosarian Spotlight: Donna Bedgood

...gardening is not just about digging. Or planting, for that matter. Gardening is about cherishing.

Terry Hershey, Soul Gardening

How often have you met rosarians who are so obsessed with their gardens that they seem to have missed the point of having a garden in the first place? When this happens to you, have a chat with Donna Bedgood. Donna’s garden, while a place of great beauty and charm often featured on garden tours, is not her sole treasure. She talks with pleasure about her family, her friends, her activities and her travel even as she paints a verbal picture for you of her garden design and plants. Since her broken hip in 2008, Donna relies on help in the garden with the heavier chores or when she is traveling. She takes pleasure spending time in the garden weeding, deadheading and cutting flowers for herself or friends. She has had great success sowing wildflower seeds in the flower beds, often with her grandsons’ help. Donna loves to see the clematis weaving in and out of rose canes, and the yard filled with songbirds and butterflies. It is this balance and appreciation for what she has and is creating that soothes your soul. You begin to realize that she hasn’t complained once about moles or mites or miserable weather. Donna is looking forward to another spring, another trip, another new rose that will bloom its heart out for her. It must be very peaceful in Donna’s garden for her heart seems to be so much at peace, too.

Why do you grow roses?
I grow roses because I love the end result of a beautiful, blooming garden. I also find that working in my garden is a great stress reliever, and I feel a great deal of satisfaction in seeing the plants grow and develop. I love sharing roses with friends and family.

What roses do you grow?
I have approximately 150 or so roses. I have not counted recently. My backdrop for the garden is black fencing on which I’ve planted both ‘New Dawn’ and ‘The Fairy’. They intertwine and give a nice blend of shades of pink when in full bloom. The ‘New Dawn’ continues to bloom through the summer. I grow a lot of the old garden roses which I started with after retirement from Johnson & Johnson. But I love the easy care and dependable and continuing bloom of the ‘Knock Outs’. I enjoy the original red and the pink, but probably my favorite ‘Knock Out’ is ‘Rainbow Knock Out’ which is more low-growing. I have it in a circular brick, raised bed, and it has done very well.

How do you care for your roses?
I try to use as few chemicals as possible. I really like the blue fertilizer from Mark Stelljes that he delivers to our meetings. Stacy O’Conner, RRRS member, does spraying for me when needed.

(continued on page 7)
What are a few of your favorite roses?
Other than the roses I’ve already mentioned, favorites are ‘Gideon Lincecum’ because of the deep green foliage against the prolific white blooms, ‘Ballerina’ because I started with it and ‘Old Blush’. Three of my closest friends were born in 1937, the date of ‘Ballerina’, so that makes it special. ‘Penelope’ and ‘Duchesse de Brabant’ are other old favorites. More recent additions that I really enjoy are ‘Julia Child’, ‘Honey Perfume’, ‘Moonstone’, and ‘Fragrant Cloud’.

How did you get started growing roses?
Visiting the Antique Rose Emporium in 1996 with JoAnn Shoulders, another rose-loving friend, was the start of it all. I was just blown away by the idea that we could grow these roses in our climate-challenged area.

What is the best advice you would give to a novice rose grower?
Don’t let the work overwhelm you. Just do the best you can and take time to really enjoy the fruits of your work. Roses are really pretty forgiving. Jane Cantrell, a close neighbor and friend also in our club, and I have enjoyed having small spring garden parties for friends, and we’ve each shared our gardens on the Master Gardener’s Annual Tour. I encourage gardeners to share their creations.

What secret tip would you be willing to share with us about roses or rose growing?
Don’t hesitate to ask for help. Sometimes you just cannot do it all yourself.

Do you do anything out of the ordinary with roses?
Nothing out of the ordinary. I have decorated some desserts with my flowers and roses and frequently use them for centerpieces.

What was the worst mistake you’ve made growing roses?
Digging out and making my first rose garden in too much shade was my first big mistake. I had to move all the roses and make that bed primarily a shade garden. Because we have so many trees and I was so determined to grow roses, I had a number of large old cedars taken out and created a sunny area for my rose garden.

Can you recommend good companion plants for roses?
I enjoy a variety of flowers. I especially enjoy planting clematis among the roses. They seem to agree very well. I have a number of different varieties and colors; they make great companion plants. I also plant alyssum, red corn poppies, larkspur, and cosmos—all planted from seed. A friend, Carolyn Carson, was instrumental in getting me interested in planting “wildflowers” from seed.
**Any funny stories you’d like to tell?**

At another garden meeting, a lady told the story about crushing up her Centrum Silver vitamin tablets (after her doctor told her to stop taking them) and mixing them with water to feed her orchids. She said they bloomed and grew beautifully! I wonder if these vitamins would benefit roses, too.

**A peaceful path!**
(Photo by Donna Bedgood)

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**March**

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

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Did you know that the new American Rose Society’s website is now up and running? It has many new features and will continue to offer more material as it becomes available, so please visit the site often! Information including membership can be found at [http://www.ars.org/](http://www.ars.org/) In addition, members can access the online quarterly bulletins: *Mini/MiniFlora Bulletin*, the *Old Garden Rose and Scrub Journal*, and *Rose Arrangers’ Bulletin*. Check out the ARS Tested and Endorsed Products, contests, *About Roses* articles, *Members Only* offerings, and shop the ARS Store!

What a great resource—What a great Society!

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**Consulting Rosarian’s Report:**

**March in the Rose Garden**

*By Ilene Cook*

Consulting Rosarian Reports are to help remind all of us of the monthly steps required to grow great roses. I am a firm believer in schedules, but sometimes we are forced to blur those lines, as Mother Nature may not always be willing to play fair. The steps I take in FEB-MARCH are listed in task order.

1. Traditionally, pruning roses in the Metroplex and surrounding areas has always coincided with Valentine’s Day. However, along the Red River, it might coincide more appropriately with St. Patrick’s Day. If you did begin pruning the weekend of Feb.12-14, you are a great rosarian and deserve a badge for fighting the elements. If you were like me, it was way too cold! I have consoled myself with believing that the threat of freezing temperatures would ruin my new growth. So let’s just say this unseasonably cold, long winter may possibly hurt your new growth, causing some buds not to open or certainly damage the leaves. Just realize that now, snip away the damaged growth and move on. It surely will not deter your roses from blooming at the end of April. If you are a late pruner like me, I suggest you get on it this March, so as not to delay the bloom season.

2. So much has already been written in the February RRRS newsletter about how to prune that I don’t feel it is necessary to revisit the issue, but I do feel that much more needs to be addressed about the housekeeping of the garden. After pruning the roses, strip each cane of all its diseased growth. I do this because I do believe it keeps disease from last year from infecting this year's growth. I remove all leaves from the ground in the beds and, since my garden is trimmed with violets, I also remove all their leaves so they are reduced to a mound. I do this to expose any leaves hiding in the mound and so the

(continued on page 9)
violets’ new growth don’t have any winter-burned leaves, as well as to check the size of the violet plant. I will dig up and/or divide any excess plants that threaten to encroach on the roses growing space.

3. Shovel pruning is the next task and sometimes the hardest. Please let me remind everyone reading this: bushes die, or sometimes just do poorly. Your garden is not a plant hospital—get rid of that dead or dying bush so you can plant something new. Keep the nurseries in business! I can say this because my ‘Radio Times’ will be given a proper burial this weekend. It is by far one of my most favorite Austin roses, hard to find and replace, and has always held a place of honor in the English Rose Garden bed. But it has performed miserably this last season, so I will be replacing it with ‘The McCartney Rose’ on Fortuniana rootstock. It may not technically be an English rose, but the namesake is correct!

4. After the garden has been cleaned and debris is picked up, I spread a layer of Preen or Amaze (whichever is on sale at the end of last season) throughout the rose bed. I hate to weed, and though I love my Chaste Tree, I continually have to stop it from reproducing itself all over the rose beds.

5. Since I have an irrigation system that is designed to water each rose bush with a drip line, I check all the hoses to make sure they are intact after the winter and buy new batteries for all the Melnor watering timers.

6. I will wait to spray fungicide until the weather warms just a bit more and the same holds true for beginning to fertilize. Usually by mid March we can get to 50 - 60 degrees. I wait until that happens before I begin my spray routine for fungicide. I use two products—nothing fancy or expensive. One is Mancozeb (which I purchase from Rosemania) and the other is Spectracide Immunox® Plus Insect & Disease Control (which all the big box stores carry). I choose the Immunox Plus because it has a bit of insect repellent. I use these two products together and nothing stronger until necessary. I will add Orthene later in the year but not for now.

7. I use chemical fertilizers because they give me a quick jumpstart, and I need that to get the bushes growing. Remember late pruning and cold weather will slow the growth of the roses this year. You can add organics to the soil later in the month or in April as they are slow to work and require warmer weather. They will promote good soil health in the long run. I use the Neil Sperry lawn fertilizer 24-0-0 and apply 1 cup to each rose plant and a half-cup to the smaller bushes and nothing to the new bushes. However, most private label brands packaged for the big box stores will be just as effective. The 20-0-0 is the fertilizer for gardens with clay soils that test too high in phosphorus (middle number of the fertilizer analysis).

8. Order nitrile gloves, respirator and filters, and protective eyewear. Order a water wand for later in the year, and clean your sprayer to make sure it is in good order. Buy a calendar (continued on page 10)

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Melnor Electronic AquaTimer (3012)
and pin it up in the garage so you will be prompted to record your spray and fertilization activities.

9. Make labels for each rose bush so you will know what you are cutting and visitors to your garden will also be impressed!

10. Be sure to give thanks that we live in Texas, because the northern part of the country won't see the ground until July 4th this year!

**March Rose Calendar**

- Test soil pH and nutrient levels and adjust as needed.
- Begin pruning later this month barring any forecasts for severe and continued cold weather! Don’t remove winter protection until all threat of a freeze is past.
- Apply pre-emergent herbicide to prevent weeds.
- Plant bare-root roses and transplant roses.
- Water deeply and only when rains are not adequate.
- Rake and dispose of all fallen rose leaves and debris. Do not consider it mulch!
- Plant container roses if they have been acclimated to the outside temperatures and sunlight.
- Apply supplemental liquid fertilizer; Epsom salts; chelated iron; your favorite organics like alfalfa, fishmeal or emulsion; SUPERthrive, etc. Spread out your fertilizer applications over several weeks so you don’t burn your roses.
- Apply mulch to a depth of 4 inches on beds.
- Once you prune, spray with a fungicide to prevent diseases. It is much easier to prevent than stop fungal attacks.
- Purchase and faithfully use safety equipment like respirators, goggles, nitrile gloves, etc. when spraying. Follow the manufacturer’s recommendations for safety practices and equipment. Read labels!
- Start keeping records this growing season on what you do in the garden to help prevent those senior moments!

**History of Roses: Damask Roses**

*By Jerry Haynes*

*Rosa × damascena*, more commonly known as the Damask rose or simply as “Damask”, or sometimes as the Rose of Castile, is a rose hybrid, derived from *Rosa gallica* and *Rosa moschata* (Huxley 1992). Further DNA analysis has shown that a third species, *Rosa fedtschenkoana*, is associated with the Damask rose (Harkness 2003). The Damask rose is commonly used to flavor food and to make rose water or a rose-scented essential oil.

**Description and History**
The Damask Rose is a deciduous shrub growing to 7 ft 3 in tall, the stems densely armed with stout, curved prickles and stiff bristles. The leaves are pinnate, with five (rarely seven) leaflets. It is considered an important type of Old Rose, also, for its prominent place in the pedigree of many other types. Damask roses are renowned for their fine fragrance, and their flowers are commercially harvested for rose oil used in perfumery. The perfume industry often refers to this rose as the **Damascus rose**.

The Crusader Robert de Brie is often given credit for bringing this rose from Persia to Europe sometime between 1254 and 1276. The name refers to Damascus, Syria, a major city in the region. Other stories say the Romans brought the rose to England, and a third account says that Henry VIII’s physician gave him a Damask rose as a present, around 1540.

**Uses for the Damascus Rose**
For centuries, the Damascus rose (*Rosa damascena*) has been considered a symbol of beauty and love. The fragrance of the rose has been captured and preserved in the form of rose water by an ancient method that can be traced back to biblical times in the Middle East, and later to the Indian subcontinent. An Iranian doctor, Avicenna, is credited with the discovery of the process for extracting rose water from rose petals in the early 11th century.

*(continued on page 11)*
Roses on the Red Newsletter

March 2010

Damascus roses were introduced into England during the reign of Henry VIII and were frequently displayed and scattered at weddings and festivals. Nowadays, they are popular in craft projects and as potpourri ingredients. They are used in wedding favors, gathered together in organza bags or favor boxes, and they replace the traditional Avola sugared almonds to make perfumed keepsakes. They are also used to decorate festive tables and as hair decorations when attached to hairpins.

The uses of the dried Damascus rose in beauty products are numerous. Soaking Damascus rosebuds in water for three or four days releases a rose essence which can be added to bath water or may be used to rinse hair after shampooing to leave the skin and hair soft with the fragrance of roses. As the gentlest of all astringents, rose water is often used as toner for fair and dry skin or as an anti-aging product in facial creams. Damascus rose oil also has therapeutic properties that soothe the mind and helps with depression, nervous tension and stress.

Culinary Uses
Damascus roses are used in cooking as a flavoring ingredient or spice (often to cover up the stench of rotting meat...) It appears as one of the ingredients in the Moroccan spice mixture known as Ras el Hanout. Rose water and powdered roses are used in Indian and Middle Eastern cooking. Rose water is often sprinkled on many meat dishes, while rose powder is added to sauces, yogurts and other desserts. Chicken with rose jam was a valued dish in Persian cuisine. Western cookery today does not make much use of rose water, but Mediterranean cuisine still favors it, especially in such delicacies as rose petal jam.

Varieties
Damask roses are divided in two groups (Huxley 1992):

- **Summer Damasks** (R. × damascena nothovar. damascena) have a short flowering season, only in the summer.
- **Autumn Damasks** (R. × damascena nothovar. Semperflorens) have a longer flowering season with some repeat; they are otherwise not distinguishable from the summer damasks.

‘Summer Damask’ has a light pink bloom with flowers varying in color from almost white to dark pink. The bloom is loose and borne in small to medium clusters. There is a strong fragrance. The foliage is gray-green with 5-7 leaflets. It is a deciduous shrub growing to 7 feet tall, the stems densely armed with stout, curved prickles and stiff bristles. The leaves are pinnate, with five (rarely seven) leaflets. It is considered an important type of Old Rose for its prominent place in the pedigree of many other types. Hips are bright red and bristly. It is once-blooming.

‘Autumn Damask’ (‘R. damascena semperflorens’) Prior to 1849. aka: (‘Quatre Saisons’, ‘Rosa Damascena 'Bifera') medium pink with flowers borne singly or in small clusters. There is a moderate fragrance with some repeat blooming ability. The foliage is also light gray-green with 5-7 leaflets. This is the oldest European rose to reliably flower more than once. It is one of the most important historic roses, probably going back to the Romans or earlier. The buds are distinguished by the elongated sepals of the Damask, and the rose is at its loveliest when the buds are partially opened allowing the exquisite fragrance to be detected. This is a rose we remember from old chintz, hand painted china and wallpaper. This is quite probably the plant that writers in antiquity described as the Four Seasons Rose of Paestum. It is the only one of the Old European roses to (continued on page 12)
repeat its bloom, and some rosarians have suggested that it is a species hybrid with 'R. chinensis', created where the far edges of their ranges touch. Its garden value is undeniable, with richly fragrant flowers occurring in abundance on a compact, hardy shrub in spring, followed by scattered blossoms through the summer and fall.

‘Mme Hardy’ is considered to be one of the most beautiful white roses ever bred. It is one of the finest surviving Damasks that we have in commerce, and for good reasons. It was bred by Alexander Hardy, an amateur rose breeder who was the chief horticulturist at the Luxembourg Gardens in Paris for many years. Of the many introductions bred by M. Hardy, approximately 10 are still with us today. The original name for this Damask was Félicité Hardy, named after M. Hardy's wife. It is thought that this is not likely a pure Damask, but possibly a Damask-Portland or Damask-Alba hybrid. It is easily identified by its unusually leafy sepals, and the characteristic green eye at the center of the bloom. There is a mild but very attractive scent to the bloom, one that I would describe as damask-like with an undertone of honey. I know that we all have a different sense of fragrance when it comes to roses, and many people describe the scent of ‘Mme Hardy’ as being strong and very sweet. The foliage is a lovely fresh grass green on straight upright canes with modest thorns. It will grow to a height of about 7 feet and is a modestly vigorous shrub and very healthy. It does get some blackspot on occasion, but only under very stressful weather conditions. ‘Mme Hardy’ is one of the classic Old Roses. Though not very large, the blooms begin as pretty cupped shaped form, then becoming flat and finally reflexing. There is the slightest hint of blush in the early stages, but later they become a pure glistening white, while at the center, a small green eye adds to the attraction.

‘Ispahan’ is another still popular example of R. damascena, before 1832. Also known as 'Rose d'Isfahan' or 'Pompon des Princes', this paragon amongst Damask roses has been seen growing wild on the hills of Iran. David Austin still recommends it highly as free flowering, among the first Old Roses to start blooming and the last to continue, and for its fine Damask fragrance. The name Ispahan is from the name of the city of Isfahan in Iran.

‘Ispahan’
Photo from http://www.antiqueroseemporium.com/

Thanks to Paul Barden's website “Old Garden Roses Beyond” at http://www.rdrop.com/~paul/history.html. Next month we will discuss the Alba roses.

2010 Favorite RRRS Roses:

‘Altissimo’

By Carole Mainwaring

‘Altissimo’ tied with one other rose for third place in the RRRS Top Favorite Roses for 2010. It is classified as a medium red, large-flowered climber by the American Rose Society. ‘Altissimo’ was hybridized by G. Delbard in France and registered in 1966. The flowers are blood-red with bright yellow stamens. The seven velvety petals form a bloom 4-5 inches in diameter. They form a shallow cup and are borne singly or in small clusters. There is a slight, clove fragrance and repeat bloom. Foliage (continued on page 13)
is dark and serrated. The growth is stiff and upright from 7-15 feet. It needs to be trained to grow laterally or it will tend to flower high. ‘Altissimo’ received a Roses in Review rating of 7.9 making it a solid to very good rose. ‘Altissimo’ has very long-lasting flowers with cutting length stems. It blooms on new and old wood. It is very hardy and disease resistant.

[Image of a red flower labeled “Altissimo”]

RRRS members growing ‘Altissimo’ include Jane Cantrell and Barb Grisham. If you are looking for a climber that can grow and show—this is the one for you!

RRRS members growing ‘Altissimo’ include Jane Cantrell and Barb Grisham. If you are looking for a climber that can grow and show—this is the one for you!

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March Photographer of the Month: Nancy Grella

[Image of a white rose on an arbor labeled “Lady Banks’ Rose (‘R. banksiae’) on Arbor”]

Nancy Grella took this very lovely photo of her white ‘Lady Banks’ Rose’ during our last snowfall. The photo was taken in the morning from her porch with a Sony Cyber Shot camera. She was about 30 feet away from the arbor so that she wouldn’t leave tracks in the snow. Nancy took this shot because she loves the beauty of snowfall—the air is so clean, the grounds pristine, and the plants and structures are so decorated. Nancy describes herself as a novice rosarian and photographer. She was ecstatic to get her digital camera a few Christmases ago because she can easily delete her less than perfect shots. Practice has made perfect, it would seem!

This photo was selected because of its composition and shading. It almost appears to be a black and white photo with the dark and light areas contrasting so vividly. The open arbor seems to invite you to move further into the garden, and there is a hushed and reverent tone to the picture as a whole. The photo keeps your attention as you look to see what the snow is covering.

‘Lady Banks’ Rose’ is a white species rose with small flowers. The foliage is small and thorns few in number. The canes grow quite long—up to 39 feet in some cases. It is a once-blooming rose.

Remember to send your rose photos by the first of each month by email (JPEG) or snail mail (prints) to the Editor. The email address is cmainwak5@aol.com and the home address is Carole Mainwaring, 2000 Lake Crest Lane, Plano, TX 75023. For tips and ideas for taking great rose photography, go to the Collin County Rose Society website for video tutorials at http://www.collincountyrosesociety.org/links.html Do send in your photos—a simple camera can capture a superb picture!

Enjoy this YouTube video on Mastering Flower Photography. http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=H6ce4uptRss
Introduction to Climbing Roses:  
Part One  
By Patsy Cunningham

(EDITOR’S NOTE: Last month our speaker, Mark Stelljes, shared his experiences with pruning and caring for climbing roses. This article was submitted by Bill Cashin as an excellent follow up to Mark’s presentation. Permission has kindly been given by the author, Patsy Cunningham, to reprint the article and photos. The article was first printed in the Rhode Island Rose Review edited by Angelina P. Chute. The Rhode Island Rose Society has an superb website at http://www.rirs.org/ Care has been given to adapt the article to our North Texas climate and growing conditions as well as update the information as necessary. The second half of the article will be printed in the April newsletter.)

The subject of climbing roses could be the study of a lifetime. There is more variety of growth habit, size, pruning needs and possibilities of location for climbing roses than any other type. So the purpose of this article is to interest you in adding a climber or two to your rose garden and give you some of the basics of choosing and caring for this climber.

WHY GROW CLIMBERS?
A full-grown climber, full of blooms in June, is a wonderful sight. Its height lifts your eyes from the earth (which might have weeds) to the more beautiful backdrop of the sky. Climbers change your garden from a two dimensional flatland to the full use of the space you have, all three dimensions. “They add movement, texture and color at various heights; soften straight lines, accentuate curves; create depth; and provide a feeling of abundance.”⁵ Climbing roses can be used by the cottage gardener, with natural unstudied growth on walls and fences; as well as by the most rigidly formal gardener who can carefully train them on chains and tunneling arches.

Climbing roses are ideal as well for gardeners who wish to grow more than roses in their yards. “Companions in any walk of life are best if they provide contrast or complement.”⁸ Blue or purple clematis vines are beautiful twining through a climbing rose and add a color not found in roses. You might think blue morning glories would do the same thing cheaper and easier, but morning glories take over the rose bush and re-seed themselves relentlessly. Lower growing perennials can be grown at the base of climbers, where there is often an area of bare canes. Daylilies work well, providing a contrast of leaf type and bloom time, without being invasive. They come in thousands of varieties and tend to have peak bloom in mid July and early August when roses may be languishing.

Another reason to add a climber to your garden is that “climbing roses are much less affected by pests and diseases than other roses.”⁵ This may be partly because most of the leaves are high enough to prevent blackspot spores from being splashed on them from the ground. Growing far above the earthbound roses also gives them more air and light, great for their health. This is not universally true of course. ‘Dorothy Perkins’ and some other ramblers have a strong tendency to mildew, mainly when overgrown. A climber grown right against a wall can have a tendency to disease, due to inadequate air circulation.

CHOOSING VARIETIES
“If ever a climbing rose is a disappointment…it is usually because the right type has not been chosen for a particular purpose.”¹¹ First, be
certain that the rose you choose is hardy for your area. The idea of winter protecting tender climbers by taking them down from their supports and burying them sounds too much like work to me. Even the method of taking evergreen boughs and tying them onto the climber’s branches to protect it from the wind and cold is a daunting task if you have more than a couple of these roses. If it can’t survive our weather, shovel-prune it. Generally, climbing sports of hybrid teas and floribundas are not as hardy as a climber that is not a sport. Where you might tolerate winter kill on a hybrid tea bush, but save the base of the plant by mounding it in manure; you would lose almost the whole plant if the same thing happened to a climber. You would then be set back at least 2 years. Be sure to choose climbers which are listed as winter hardy for zone 7 (Northern Texas) as shown on a USDA Plant Hardiness Map.

The mature size of a climber is one of the most important things to be considered when choosing a rose for a particular spot. ‘Paul’s Himalayan Musk Rambler’ could not be grown on a pillar or even an average size arch. It easily reaches 30 feet in height and is best suited for climbing into a tree or swallowing an old structure that you’d like disguised. Be aware that a climber grown on the side of a house will grow taller than the same one grown on a separate support.

![Mme Grégoire Staechelin](Image)

‘Mme Grégoire Staechelin’
Large-Flowered Climber
(Photo by Patsy Cunningham)

Growth habits and rebloom are next on the list. Some climbers, like ‘Altissimo’, are very stiff, and are unsuitable for much training. Others, like the ramblers, grow such flexible canes that they can be twisted and looped into any shape. Modern roses rebloom sporadically through the summer after a main flush in the spring. Most modern gardeners would dismiss a once bloomer without a thought, feeling that a rebloomer must be far superior. In fact, a once blooming climbing rose or rambler often produces quantities of bloom far in excess of any repeat bloomer and is a spectacular sight. We have the once blooming fragrant ‘Mme Grégoire Staechelin’ in our garden, sent to us by mistake from a mail order nursery instead of a repeat bloomer, and we wouldn’t want to do without it.

You’ll probably be glad to know that there are quite a few climbers that tolerate part shade. “Most of the Hybrid Musk Roses (which can be trained as small 6'-10' climbers), including ‘Buff Beauty’, ‘Lavender Lassie’, ‘Kathleen’, and ‘Cornelia’, will tolerate up to a half day of shade.”

We have ‘Golden Showers’ growing and blooming well on the north side of our house. ‘Climbing Iceberg’, which is hardy despite being a climbing sport, does well for us in an area shaded by trees for at least half the day. One of advantages of climbers that I’ve found is that they can occupy the ecological niche in our yard near a solid fence. A bush would not thrive, being shaded by the fence; but once the climber grows a bit above the fence it can take off, since now it is exposed to the sun.

Following are some excellent choices for a climbing rose in your garden.

‘New Dawn’: One of the most reliably hardy and healthy climbers and a best seller since its introduction in 1930. It has the distinction of being the first plant in the world to be patented. It is an ever-blooming sport of ‘Dr W. Van Fleet’, now classified by the ARS as a large-flowered climber. ‘New Dawn’ is a double flower, pale pink in color, with a mild old rose scent. The foliage is shiny and very healthy, and can be grown without spraying. It may show blackspot in North Texas. Give it plenty of room, because once established (about 3 years) “it can quickly outgrow any space allotted to it.”

(continued on page 16)
and canes can easily reach 15 feet. It is easy to grow, resistant to pests and can even be grown in as little as 4 or 5 hours of sun a day. ‘New Dawn’ and its descendants must be deadheaded differently than the average ever-blooming climber. Just pinch off the dead bloom, as new buds develop directly behind these and will be lost if you prune back the lateral. The ARS RIR rating is 8.5 making it a very good to excellent rose.

‘New Dawn’
Large-Flowered Climber
(Photo by Patsy Cunningham)

‘Sombreuil’: This is now classified as a large-flowered climber by the ARS and can no longer be shown as an Old Garden Rose. You may hear arguments that what is now being sold as ‘Sombreuil’ is actually a newer rose called ‘Colonial White’, and ARS refers you to ‘Sombreuil’ if you search for ‘Colonial White’. It has flat, perfectly formed creamy white blooms with an old garden rose appearance. It is quartered with a “button” eye. The bloom can be tinged with pink or yellow, and will hold its color better if given partial shade, with five or six hours of sun.\(^5\) It is very hardy and once established, quite vigorous. Because it can bloom on new growth, it produces plenty of blooms in the fall as well.\(^2\) It can be from 8-13 feet tall when mature. The long canes can be trained in many shapes. The ARS rating is 8.8 making it an outstanding rose.

‘Altissimo’: This rose is incomparable, literally and figuratively. There just is no other rose with the combination of rich, blood red color accented with bright golden stamens and extremely heavy velvet substance. It is a very large single bloom, about 5 inches across, growing on tall, upright, very stiff canes. It has only a light scent, described as clove. The individual blooms seem to last forever on the plant, although they are most beautiful on the first day of their bloom when the stamens are bright and fresh. If not trained as the shoot is growing, the cane soon becomes far too rigid to train. A fan shape will work well with this climber\(^5\), so that the blooms do not form only at the tips of the long 10-foot canes. Hard pruning of older growth will encourage new vigorous basal shoots. It is very hardy and disease resistant. The ARS rating is 8.5.

‘Dublin Bay’: This rose is a good choice for a moderately sized climber, taking several years to reach its 8 to12 foot mature height. It has bright rich red blooms about 4 inches across with about 25 petals. It is hardy and has shiny dark green disease resistant foliage. The ARS rating 8.5.

‘Jeanne Lajoie’: This is the best climbing mini and indeed one of the best of any type climber. It is covered with rich pink miniature blooms in great profusion in the spring and fall, with good rebloom in between. It is disease resistant and easily propagated. It takes several years to become well established then takes off and can reach up to 15 feet, although it can be pruned to keep it in a smaller area. The ARS rating is 9.1.

(continued on page 17)
Don’t be afraid to order an interesting climber by mail or internet. Since climbing roses are vigorous growers by nature, even the little own root roses that you can order this way will quickly establish themselves. A couple of my favorites that can’t be bought locally are ‘Summer Wine’ and ‘The Impressionist’, both available from Heirloom Roses.¹³ ‘Summer Wine’ has a scent like green apples, thin flexible canes, vigorous growth and single flowers of ever changing pink and peach shades with red stamens. ‘The Impressionist’ is a stiffer climber, with “English” style blooms of almost egg yolk colored centers, shading to creamsicle and then a shade of pink (really!). It has a myrrh fragrance. Both are disease resistant. Roses Unlimited¹⁴ also carries a large selection of own root climbers, including ‘Climbing Crimson Glory’ (deep red black and a wonderful strong fragrance) and ‘City of York’ (fragrant single white blooms, once bloomer).

‘Summer Wine’
Large-Flowered Climber
(Photo by Patsy Cunningham)

   Sept.9, 2002.

Rating Roses: The ARS Surveys
By Carole Mainwaring

Every fall for the past 84 years a Roses in Review (RIR) survey has been conducted by the American Rose Society with the help of both ARS members and nonmembers alike to evaluate new rose introductions. The results of this survey help determine the ratings in the ARS Handbook for Selecting Roses. Included in the survey are also 30 older roses which lack ratings in the Handbook but may deserve a rating. The rating system requires scoring a rose on its “Garden” and “Exhibition” qualities. According to the instructions given, the criteria for the “Garden” rating involves the vigor and growth habit of the plant, the number of blooms and how quickly it repeats, the beauty and lasting quality of the blooms in the garden, fragrance, disease resistance, winter hardiness quality of foliage, and so forth. The criteria for the “Exhibition” rating involves the form of the bloom (or spray (continued on page 18)
where appropriate), its lasting quality, color, stem and foliage, and all the other attributes that make for a successful exhibition cultivar. The Scoring Scale is as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Score Range</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9.3 to 10</td>
<td>One of the best roses ever. Scores in this range should be awarded sparingly.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8.8 to 9.2</td>
<td>An outstanding rose. One with major positive features and only minor negatives. The top 1%.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8.3 to 8.7</td>
<td>A very good to excellent rose. One you would recommend without hesitation to anyone.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.8 to 8.2</td>
<td>A solid to very good rose. Its good features easily outweigh any problems. Well above average.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.3 to 7.7</td>
<td>A good rose. A little to somewhat above average.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.8 to 7.2</td>
<td>An average rose.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.1 to 6.7</td>
<td>A below average rose.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0.0 to 6.0</td>
<td>Not recommended.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In the South Central District of the ARS which includes Texas, Oklahoma, and a portion of Arkansas, the following roses received at least a 7.8 or higher “Garden” and/or ”Exhibition” score from at least ten individuals growing that rose:

- **‘Abby’s Angel’** miniflora; garden rating of 8.0 and exhibition rating of 8.2
- **‘Ashton’** miniflora; exhibition rating of 7.8
- **‘Benilli’** floribunda; garden rating of 7.9
- **‘Best of 04’** miniature; exhibition rating of 7.9
- **‘Dr Troy Garret’** miniflora; garden rating of 8.2 and exhibition rating of 8.4
- **‘First Choice’** miniflora; garden rating of 7.9 and exhibition rating of 8.3
- **‘Fitzhugh’s Diamond’** miniflora; garden rating of 7.8
- **‘Here’s Gert’** hybrid tea; exhibition rating of 8.0
- **‘Julia Child’** floribunda; garden rating of 8.0
- **‘Leading Lady’** miniflora; garden rating of 7.8 and exhibition rating of 8.1
- **‘Marilyn Wellan’** hybrid tea; garden rating of 8.0 and exhibition rating of 8.3
- **‘Memphis Magic’** miniflora; exhibition rating of 7.8
- **‘Memphis Music’** miniflora; garden rating of 7.8
- **‘Pope John Paul II’** hybrid tea; garden rating of 8.0
- **‘Ty’** miniature; exhibition rating of 8.0
- **‘Whirlaway’** miniflora; exhibition rating of 8.1

Plan now to be a part of this year’s 2010 RIR survey by completing either a printed form or using the RIR online form. Forms and details will be forthcoming this summer in the ARS *American Rose* magazine or on their website [http://www.ars.org/](http://www.ars.org/).

And do please take part in the ARS Quinquennial Survey conducted during March of this year. You will have an opportunity to review all the roses with ratings that are ten or more years old in the *Handbook for Selecting Roses* and offer the amount and direction of a change that you feel should be made to these ratings. Updating these ratings is everyone’s privilege—even the rose grower with just one rose! Go to the ARS website and click on [http://www.ars.org/wp-content/uploads/2010/02/Quinquennial-Survey.pdf](http://www.ars.org/wp-content/uploads/2010/02/Quinquennial-Survey.pdf) for the pdf form or complete the online form at [http://www.stsrv.com/triennial/trisplsh.htm](http://www.stsrv.com/triennial/trisplsh.htm). Rose growers across America will thank you for helping them make the best rose selections for their gardens!

Rose Defense Guide

By Carole Mainwaring

A pesticide is any chemical that is used to control pests. Pests include all of the following: insects, rodents, fungi, weeds, bacteria, viruses, mites, etc. which cause damage to crops, humans, or animals. Pesticides control pests in many different ways. Some pesticides control only when they come in contact directly with the pest; others are systemic and can move through the leaves and roots of roses to prevent problems. It is very important to read the label of any product you plan to use to control a pest (continued on page 19)
and follow all directions carefully. This includes wearing all the safety equipment suggested and taking every precaution so that the chemical is not able to enter your body. Be especially careful not to spill or splash the chemical on your skin or breathe in the chemical when you are mixing or applying it. Make sure the label specifies that it should be used for the pest you are attempting to control. Measure correctly and clean up carefully. Take a shower before eating or drinking and wash all clothing separately in hot water.

Here are some suggested pesticides for the more common pests you may see in your rose garden. If this list omits any chemical which you have used very successfully, please email the Editor at cmainwark5@aol.com with your suggestions for inclusion on this list. Also, please let the Editor know if any chemical has risks that should be shared with our members. Use only the chemicals you feel comfortable using and do not overuse any. Doing so will cause pests to become resistant to that particular pesticide. Rotating pesticides helps to prevent resistance.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Pest</th>
<th>Pesticides</th>
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</table>
| Fungal Diseases |  • Ortho® RosePride® Disease Control Concentrate with triforine  
              |  • Ortho® Max™ Garden Disease Control with chlorothalonil  
              |  • Banner Maxx/Honor Guard with propiconazole  
              |  • Pentathlon LF/Mancozeb with zinc  
              |  • Immunox with myclobutanil  
              |  • Greencure Solutions Fungicide with potassium-bicarbonate |
| Aphids       |  • Water Wand  
              |  • Bayer Products with imidacloprid  

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Pest</th>
<th>Pesticides</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Thrips       |  • Bayer Products with imidacloprid  
              |  • Orthene with acephate  
              |  • Merit with imidacloprid |
| Caterpillars |  • Thuricide with Bacillus Thuringiensia (good bacteria) |

Sources for finding these pesticides include local nurseries, big box stores, and internet websites like:

- [http://rosemania.com/](http://rosemania.com/)
- [http://www.primaryproducts.com/](http://www.primaryproducts.com/)

RRRS Wins Gold!

Word was received February 6 that our *Roses on the Red* newsletter won the 2009 Class B Gold Medal! Linda Kimmel, Chairperson of the American Rose Society’s Newsletter/Bulletin Contest, and Steve Jones, President of the ARS during 2009 and now Past President, sent their congratulations stating that our newsletter “was recognized as being one of the top newsletters in the country, an honor well deserved.” This honor goes to all of the Red River Rose Society officers, members, writers, and photographers who contribute both advice and materials to make our newsletters informative. In addition, ARS Awards of Merits for the top articles written in the country during the 2009 year were given to Jerry Haynes, Carole Mainwaring, and the Red River Rose Society. Jerry’s article was titled “Spider Mite Primer.” Carole’s articles included “Cleaning Pruners”, “Compost Caution”, and “Cutting Garden Roses”. The Red River Rose Society won a Specialty Bulletin Award of Merit for its “New Members Binder” edited by Nancy Grella and Carole Mainwaring. Congratulations to all!
The Red River Rose Society

**Officers**
President……………………………Sue Abernathy
2151 Liberty Rd 903-523-5029
Gordonville, TX  76245  sueellen07@verizon.net

1st Vice President…………………..Richard McGowan
903-463-7421  RJMCG@cableone.net

2nd Vice President…………………Jerry Haynes
903-433-1424  jhaynes@texband.net

Secretary/Treasurer………………..Nancy Grella
903-868-9811  nancygrella@verizon.net

Past President…………………………Bill Cashin
940-464-3068  billcashin@verizon.net

**Newsletter Editor**
Carole Mainwaring……………………972-985-8316
773 CR 2045, Ravenna, TX 75476
2000 Lake Crest Lane, Plano, TX 75023
   cmainwak5@aol.com

**Events Coordinator**
Bill Cashin…………………………940-464-3068
   billcashin@verizon.net

**Historians**
Gerald Frimann……………………903-813-1318
   jerrfrim@verizon.net

Sandra Haynes…………………………903-433-1424
   jhaynes@texband.net

**ARS Judges**
Carolyn Hayward……………………972-353-9525
cghroses@verizon.net
Carole Mainwaring (Apprentice)……972-985-8316
   cmainwak5@aol.com

**Website Development Staff:**
Jerry Haynes, Bill Cashin, and Jeremiah Davis

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Roses sleeping—cardinal feeding!
*Photo by Gerald Frimann*

---

**Consulting Rosarians**
Ilene Cook…………………………972-394-6077
cook2100@verizon.net
Kathy Harris…………………………972-620-1131
kharris747@yahoo.com
Jerry Haynes…………………………903-433-1424
jhaynes@texband.net
Carolyn Hayward……………………972-353-9525
cghroses@verizon.net
Carole Mainwaring……………………972-985-8316
cmainwak5@aol.com
Mark Stelljes…………………………918-455-ROSE
   astelljes@cox.net

**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 nor 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.