



# Roses on the Red

Red River Rose Society



Hot Princess

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

<http://redriverrosesociety.com>

<http://www.ars.org>

2009 and 2010 ARS Bulletin Contest Gold Medal Winner



February 2012

Volume 5, Number 1

## "Pruning Demonstration"



**Date:** February 21  
**Time** 5:00 pm

Third Tuesday of the month  
Dinner at Huck's Catfish

6:30 pm  
**Program Location:**

Program  
GCHD Denison Office Conference Room  
205 N Houston St Denison, TX 75020  
(903) 465-2878

Now this is a must-see show as the dynamic duo of Gerald Frimann and Richard McGowan demonstrate the finer techniques of pruning roses. Pruning rose bushes can be confusing, especially when you start talking about hybrid teas, old garden roses, shrub roses, once-blooming roses, and English roses. This confusion leads to doubt and improper pruning or no pruning. These two will erase any confusion you may have.

Gerald Frimann (Consulting Rosarian) and Richard McGowan (Master Gardener) have devoted massive amounts of hours to designing, planting and maintaining the roses at Eisenhower Birthplace Park. They are pros at pruning!

## President's Message

This is the inaugural issue of our new, quarterly RRRS newsletter. Your elected officers are serving as the writers and editors of 'Roses on the Red' for at least the next year while our wonderful, accomplished and celebrated, award-winning editor, Carole Mainwaring, takes a well-deserved break.

The Red River Rose Society has solved the problem of a new meeting location. Beginning with our February 21<sup>st</sup> meeting, the RRRS will move to the Grayson County Health Department's Denison Office Conference Room located at 205 N Houston. The meeting time will revert back to a 6:30pm start. Huck's has been chosen as February's dining location.

The RRRS would like to welcome two new members to the fold: **Joleen Stow** (Whitesboro) and **Charlotte Teeter** (Gainesville). We are sure happy you have joined us!

Our quarterly 2012 newsletters will be published in February, May, August and November. Emails and postings on our website will keep our members up to date about meetings, events and information of note.



# A Good Time Was Had By All The 2011 Red River Rose Society Christmas Party



*We ended the year having  
Fun, celebrating  
Friends, and  
Feasting like fiends!*





## 2012 Calendar

17 Jan 6:00pm	<b>Carole Mainwaring</b>	David Austin and His Roses
21 Feb 6:30pm	<b>Richard McGowan &amp; Gerald Frimann</b>	Pruning Demonstration
	<b>Red River Rose Society 5<sup>th</sup> Birthday Party</b>	
20 Mar 6:30pm	<b>Pam Smith</b>	Rose Landscape Design
17 Apr 6:30pm	<b>Don &amp; Brenda Johnson</b>	From Garden to Show
Sat 21 Apr	<b>Fifth Annual Rose Sale</b>	Sherman Courthouse lawn
15 May 6:30pm	<b>Claude Graves</b>	European Roses
19 Jun 6:30pm	<b>Gerald Frimann</b>	Drip Irrigation
	<b>July &amp; August</b>	<b>No Meetings</b>
18 Sep 6:30pm	<b>Rosarian Panel</b>	
October 2012	<b>RoseDango</b>	dates to be announced
20 Nov 6:30pm	<b>Jerry Haynes</b>	Putting Your Roses to Bed
<b>11 Dec 6:30pm</b>	<b>Christmas Party</b>	date and place to be announced

The Red River Rose Society meets the third Tuesday of the month at the Grayson County Health Department's Denison Office located at 205 N Houston Denison, Texas. Speakers subject to change.

Please visit our website

[www.redriverrosesociety.com](http://www.redriverrosesociety.com)

## Sue Abernathy Receives 2011 Bronze Medal Award



Our hardworking Past-President, Sue Abernathy, received the 2011 Gold Medal for her many, many contributions to the RRRS. It may not be kind to tell a lady that she has big feet, but Sue left large shoes for future rosarians to fill!



### Top 2011 RRRS Favorite Rose: 'Hot Princess'™

**Hot Princess'™** tied for third place with five other roses for Top 2011 RRRS Favorite Roses. It is classified as a hybrid tea by the American Rose Society and was hybridized by Hans Jürgen Evers (Germany, 2000). Originally bred for the florist trade, Hot Princess has proven itself as a high quality exhibition rose as well as a rose that has a long life in a vase. The **Hot Princess Rose** variety is a top selling hot pink rose that is also used widely among florists.

A wonderful rose for the garden as well as the show table, Hot Princess provides the most striking and dramatic splashes of color in the garden. The bright fluorescent pink color is a real eye-catcher, and the beautiful exhibition-quality blooms are nothing short of dazzling. The color does not fade, from bud to exhibition form to fully open bloom. Because of its origination as a florist's rose, as a cut flower it is unbeatable and it has a long vase life as well.

The rose bush has an upright, well-branched growth habit, reaching a height of 5 to 6 feet. The flamboyant pink rose blossoms generally are single blooms, and the color never fades, even in the most intense heat of summer. In addition, the plant reblooms well in flushes from spring until early winter, providing an abundance of long-stemmed beauties throughout the growing season. The one and only downside to this rose is that it has very little fragrance...

# How To Know A Modern Rose

By Darrell G.H. Schramm (Reprinted with permission of the author)

So you grow the hybrid tea **Marilyn Monroe** or **Just Joey** or **Fragrant Cloud**, or even all three. Or you grow the floribunda **Julia Child** or *Singin' the Blues*—surely *Iceberg*. Maybe you prefer clustered flowers and so you grow *Ballerina* or **Cecile Brunner** or *The Fairy*. Or large-flowered climbers like *Altissimo* or *Compassion*. These are the roses of our time. Ground covers and miniatures aside, these are among the popular modern roses today.

In contrast to Old Garden Roses, modern roses generally have shiny leaves. And some of them, because they are sterile, do not produce hips (or heps or haws—all three terms are correct, but I'll call them hips.)

But can you tell the difference between a floribunda and a hybrid tea? Just what are the characteristics of the classes of roses you grow? What do you look for to differentiate them? (Maybe you don't care. But I'll assume you are interested.) Knowing what is typical of certain rose groups can help you select the kind of rose you may want.

Roses are grouped into twelve botanical classes by their genetic and physical traits. Three of them concern us here: *Chinensis*, *Synstylae*, and *Cinnamomeae* (also called *Cassiorhodon*), groupings that include our modern day roses.

Hybrid teas, whether shrubs or climbers, fall into the *Chinensis* category. This is the group that ushered the color yellow into modern roses in 1910 through **Rayon d'Or**. (However, it came by way of *Rosa foetida* in the *Pimpinellifolia* group.) Think of the apricot tones of **Abbaye de Cluny** or the platinum apricot of **Marilyn Monroe** or the apricot-gold and yellow blend of **Sunstruck**, not to mention the golden bronze of **Brandy** or the very, very yellow of **St. Patrick** and **Golden Showers**, to name a few. And it is *R. chinensis* that infused red into modern roses also. Think of **Mister Lincoln**, **Chrysler Imperial**, **Crimson Glory**, **Black Magic**, **Double Delight**, and so on. Without *R. chinensis*, you probably would not have hybrid teas with yellow or red coloring.

Furthermore, it is this same group that initiated the repeat-blooming trait. While the growth varies in these plants, they do consistently rebloom. Other fairly consistent traits of hybrid teas are their stiff, upright stature (though this was not true of all hybrid teas in the early years) and their leaflets of five or seven per leaf. If they produce hips, the hips are round. The *Synstylae* group includes floribundas, polyanthas, and hybrid musks.

**Easy Does It**, **Easter Basket**, **French Lace**, **Frensham**, **Hot Cocoa**, **Scintimental** and the like are floribundas. **Baby Faurax**, **China Doll**, **The Fairy**, **Lady Ann Kidwell**, **Miss Edith Cavell**, etc. are polyanthas. So is **Cecile Brunner**; some of these polyanthas are fairly old but still popular. And most of the hybrid musks that are still popular date to the first three decades or so of the 20th century: **Ballerina**, **Belinda**, **Buff Beauty**, **Bloomfield Dainty**, **Penelope**, and others.

The *Synstylae* group has flexible canes; curved prickles, if any; mostly five and seven leaflets to the leaf, but sometimes nine; and sepals that fall off when the hips are ripe. Flowering in corymbs or clusters, they are known for being vigorous and floriferous; after all, floribunda (from Latin) means —an abundance of flowers and polyantha (from Greek) means —many flowers. (They are related to the *R. moschata* and/or *R. multiflora* species.) The most distin-

guishing feature, however, is the style—the slender part of the pistil rising from the ovary—in the center of the blossom. Look inside and you will see a fused style, that is, several of these slender columns fused together. In fact, *synstylae* means —fused pillar in Greek.

The third group that pertains to popular roses of our day is Cinnamomeae. Generally they are shrubby or short climbing plants. Prickles are usually large and in pairs. Leaves contain five to nine, sometimes eleven, leaflets. When the hips are ripe, the sepals are held upright. The group includes, among many more, *R. rugosa* and *R. kordesii*. While some of you may grow older rugosas such as **Blanc Double de Coubert**, **Belle Poitevine**, or **Frau Dagmar Hartopp** (or Hastrup'); the more modern are hybrids such as **Therese Bugnet**, **Snow Owl**, **Basye's Purple**, **David Thompson**, **Flamingo**, **Galleria**, and **Robusta**. *R. kordesii* offspring include those such as **Dortmund**, **Hamburger Phoenix**, and **Scharlachglu** (all three intensely red), **John Cabot** and **William Baffin** (bred in Canada to endure extreme cold),

These roses are primarily white, pink, purple, or red and somewhat informal or loose in form. As a whole, they are not repeat bloomers, but they are, overall, shade tolerant. Rugosas tolerate sandy soil and salty winds, but resent both pruning and chemical sprays (the latter may actually kill them). Their leaves reveal their identity—wrinkled, rough, and tough. Their canes are very —thorny. Cinnamomeae have the distinguishing feature of producing colorful hips in autumn: orange, gold, copper red, and red. The *kordesii* hips are ovoid or tomato-shaped, and those of *rugosa* are shaped like apples or mandarin oranges.

Given that some exceptions occur to nearly every rule, the above should serve as convenient information when in search of a modern rose to meet certain needs. It should also serve as a basic way to identify the roses. I encourage you now to walk into your garden, carrying this article if you wish, and to test yourself. A rose is not a rose is not a rose—roses are not interchangeable. Like ourselves, they have identities.

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## To Your Health.....

By Nancy Grella

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

by Jerry Haynes

Spring is a chancy season for rose growers! There is a chance that warm weather will begin in the middle of February, but there is also the chance that cold weather will linger to late March. The average last frost date for Grayson County is March 17, but it usually varies a great deal. A generally reliable predictor of pruning time is the Forsythia bush. When the forsythia forthsizes, forsooth, it is time to prune your roses. Unfortunately, a couple of years ago, the forsythia bushes did their thing and then two weeks later, we had a hard freeze. The forsythia lied like a rug...

### Preparation:

During the winter, you should clean up your pruning shears and loppers. A spray of WD-40 and some work with a rag will clean up your blades. If rusted, some steel wool will get it off. Do not ever try to sharpen your shears on a rotary grinding wheel, it will ruin them forever. However a diamond hone works great. By the way, do not leave your pruning shears in a leather holster. The leather attracts moisture and moisture and metal are not good friends. Felco brand by-pass pruning shears are the Cadillac of pruners, but the Fiskar company makes a knock-off copy that is almost as good, and about \$50 cheaper. Do not ever use the 'anvil-type' pruning shears, they smash the stems of your plants.



If you do not prune your rose bushes, they will soon have diseased and dead branches, grow tall and lanky and produce inferior blooms. Pruning helps to promote flower production and improve the shape of the bush. It is the rare rose bush that thrives without some pruning. Having said that, the 'Earthkind Roses' promoted by Dr. Steve George of Texas A&M University require very little pruning. I have a bed of six 'Knockout' rose bushes (on their own roots) planted to hide an unsightly electric post in our front yard and I never prune them. (Sandra complains a lot about my not pruning them, but they are doing just fine...)

In our area of North Texas, we usually begin pruning sometime after Valentine's Day and finish around the first week of March. Those of you with only a few roses can get it done in an hour or so.

**Tip:** If you have leaves with Blackspot or mildew on your rose bushes, It is best to bag your diseased prunings and send them to a landfill rather than contaminate your compost pile.

**Tip:** Having said that, we are rapidly filling up all of the landfills in the entire USA. So please compost whatever you can!

**Tip:** Before pruning, go to a long-range weather forecast site like AccuWeather.com and check the 15-day forecast to be sure another 'Arctic Clipper' is not headed your way.

### **How to prune**

Start by looking at the rose bush to develop a plan for pruning it. Is it lop-sided? Is the center of the bush filled with small, less than pencil thick canes, growing in a confused manner? Get an idea in your head of what you want to do with each of your rose bushes, then execute your plans.

**Tip:** Wear leather gloves to avoid losing too much blood. Goatskin gloves are better than cowhide gloves for two reasons! They have lanolin in them so they lubricate and moisturize your skin, and they resist penetration by rose thorns...

Basic practice in pruning is to remove the **FIVE D's - dead, diseased, damaged, decrepit and directionally-challenged canes**. The oldest wood (brown, dead-looking canes) can be removed to make way for new wood to grow, and small, twiggy growth can be cut off. Be sure to prune where the canes emerge from the graft or from the side of another cane. A good rule to follow is to take off one-third of the bush, shaping the bush as you prune. The general idea is to prune your rose bushes to look like an open cylinder, narrow at the bottom and wide at the top. Depending on the size of the rose bush, you should try for four to eight main canes starting from the bud union on grafted roses or emerging from the ground on own-root roses.

Old Garden Roses that bloom only once a year in the spring or early summer should be not be pruned until after blooming, if at all. New rose bushes should be pruned very lightly. They need all their leaves and canes to establish themselves. When you make a pruning cut, check to see if the bark is green and the center is white. If it is amber or brown or has a hole in it, you need to cut the dead or dying tissue off the bush continuing to make pruning cuts lower and lower down the cane until you find the center a pure creamy white. You may have to prune right down to the bud union. Many rosarians prune out canes growing in the center of the bush to open it to allow maximum air circulation and light and to help prevent disease.

Using very clean and sharp bypass pruning shears, cut the rose canes you wish to prune away at a 45 degree angle, one fourth of an inch above an outward-facing bud (leaf axil). You do not want to encourage inward-facing buds to grow because they will cause the center of your rose bush to grow into a tangle of small canes.

Don't worry about pruning. The good news is that it is almost impossible to do it wrong...

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### **Joe Abernathy's Shear Sharpening Service**

Remember to bring your dirty and dull pruners, loppers, and scissors to the February meeting so that Joe Abernathy can sharpen and oil them for you. You can retrieve your shears at the March meeting. Cost is \$5 for pruners with money donated to the RRRS. Thanks, Joe, for providing this great service.

## Spring Gardening Chores

- Order new roses.
- Spray your dormant rose bushes with Lime-Sulphur to eliminate fungus and pest carry-over.
- Test soil for pH and nutrients; Our black clay soil usually has a PH of 8.3 or more. Adjust as necessary by applying agricultural sulphur (available at feed stores) to lower your PH to 6.5.
- Prune at least one-third off your Hybrid teas, grandiflora and floribunda roses.
- Prune Earthkind roses very lightly.
- Wait until your Old Garden Roses have flowered in the spring before pruning lightly.
- Prune climbing roses lightly, tying up canes along the fence or trellis, and removing canes you don't want.
- Shovel-prune poor-performing roses.
- Transplant roses to new locations as desired before they break dormancy.
- Plant new bare-root and potted roses.
- It is best to wait a week after pruning to fertilize with a water-soluble fertilizer after pruning. Remember that Osmacote will only release its nutrients when the soil is 70 degrees or warmer.
- Sprinkle a quarter-cup of Epsom salts (magnesium sulfate) over the soil around the base of each rose plant to promote basal breaks.
- Start your pro-active spray program in January to prevent blackspot before it begins. Spray at least every two weeks, alternating between *Honor Guard* and *Bayer All-in-one Rose and Flower Care* (or similar products).
- Wait to apply insecticides until you have an insect problem or you will kill off the good insects.
- Apply 4 inches of mulch around your roses to maintain moisture and prevent weeds.

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screwed up because for  
the life of me, I could  
not get it to delete without  
messing up the alignment on  
the  
other pages.

It is obvious I do not have  
Carole Mainwaring's  
touch!

See you Tuesday,  
February 21<sup>st</sup>!

Nancy

## The Red River Rose Society

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\* Denotes Master Rosarian

**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 Editor, the Red River Rose Society nor any Member thereof can accept responsibility for any errors or omissions. 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. The newsletter is published 4 times a year and is emailed to all members. Monthly meetings are held in the Grayson County Health Department, Denison Office Conference Room, 205 N Houston Street, Denison, TX 75020 (903-465-2878).

Dues are \$20.00 per household per calendar year and should be mailed to **Nancy Grella, Treasurer, 453 Friendship Rd., Sherman, TX 75092.**



**'We Salute You' Rose**

(Photo from Remember Me Rose Gardens  
<http://www.remember-me-rose.org/default.aspx>)