

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.

<http://redriverrosesociety.com>

<http://www.ars.org>

2009 and 2010 ARS Bulletin Contest Gold Medal Winner



April 2012

Volume 5, Number 2

The President's Corner

It's spring! (actually, it has been spring for the last month or so...) I was worried that we would get a late freeze, but it seems clear that we got a mild winter and an early spring! Now if we could only get a cool, rainy summer! (Yeah, right!)

The **5th Annual Spring RRRS Rose Sale** will be April 21, on the Grayson County Courthouse lawn. Come early to get the best selection. Your RRRS officers will be making the trek to Tyler again to bring the roses back. I'm fortunate that I will be able to borrow a horse trailer from my equestrienne champion granddaughter! The two hundred roses we are bringing back from Tyler will be riding in style!

We have a ton of great programs to round out the first half of 2012. On April 17th, Don and Brenda Johnson will help us get the most from our labors. On May 15th, Claude Graves will be our tour guide through European rose gardens we haven't seen before. And on June 19th, Gerald Frimann will give us a how-to program on drip irrigation – a perfect presentation as we head into another Texas summer. Come and join us. You'll be glad you did!



April Meeting



"From Garden to Show"



Date: April 17 **Time:** 5:00 pm Dinner at Huck's Catfish
Program Time & Location: 6:30pm at Denison Public Library

You may not want to enter a rose show, but undoubtedly you want beautiful bouquets to adorn your home...Don and Brenda Johnson are finally returning to us after a two year hiatus. They are American Rose Society Horticulture and Arrangement Judges, Master Rosarians, and District Silver Honor Medal Recipients. However, what they are most admired for is their sincere willingness to help others grow and show better roses. Join us while Don and Brenda share their successful techniques and ideas.

A Favorite Miniature Rose



Miniature roses have never been one of my favorite classes of roses – mainly because I have had difficulty growing them in the clay soil on my property. And, I didn't want to bear the burden of being responsible for their survival in pots. Although, miniatures do look quite stunning presented in a container garden display – I just don't have the discipline to maintain them. I tried numerous *Rise 'n' Shine* and *Sweet Chariot*. The *Rise 'n' Shines* barely lasted a year in the field bed. I was luckier with the *Sweet Chariots*. I have one *Sweet Chariot* (out of five) that survived not only my neglect but the 2011 summer from hell. Still not very good statistics. However, I stumbled upon *Rainbow's End™* and it is beginning to change my opinion of miniatures.

In March 2011, I planted four *Rainbow's End™* in a small circular bed on the northwest corner of my yard away from the house and in the sun. I wanted something small that would complement the yellow day lilies and daffodils I have growing in the bed. I will admit this is an established bed so the soil is fairly decent because it has had the benefit of years of amendments in the form of mulch (I use shredded hardwood mulch) and dried molasses. Since this was their first year in the ground, I did thoroughly water them about every 21 days from May through September. Not only did they flourish but their performance was stellar during the 109° weather and drought. The hard freeze we had didn't faze them a bit either. They also sloughed off the aeration provided by an armadillo and a near death encounter with a vehicle.

Rainbow's End™ is a miniature rose developed by Saville (Nor'East Min Roses) in 1984. The buds open in a deep yellow with red edges and then the bloom ages to red. The blooms have a high-center form and are very full with 26-40 petals. It is amazingly prolific and the more it's dead-headed the more it produces. Reportedly, it can grow from 12 to 22 inches but mine have stayed around 15 inches so far. Sadly, it has no fragrance. But, the show it puts on makes up for the lack of fragrance. It is hardy in zones 4b to 11. And, there is also a climbing version.

I am thoroughly impressed with *Rainbow's End™* and give it a 5-Petal Rating. If it can withstand my neglect and abuse, I know it would perform fabulously under your care. Its habit would make it perfect for a pot. If I peaked your interest about this rose, you should know it will be in the 5th Annual Rose Sale inventory on April 21st.





Happy Birthday RRRS!

In February 2012, the Red River Rose Society (RRRS) celebrated its fifth birthday. In 2007, Bill Cashin rallied rose lovers in the Texoma area and started the Society. The inaugural meeting was held at the Denison Chamber of Commerce on February 20th.

Over fifty people crammed into the room—the interest was obvious. Baxter Williams (South Central District Director) and Jack Walter (Regional Director) drove in to help initiate the RRRS. Instead of champagne for the christening, Jack Walter provided miniature roses for all the charter members.

The goal of the RRRS was to provide a society that was a venue for people to meet, learn about roses, grow better roses, and have fun. And, the RRRS filled that void. Over the past five years, the speaker lineup read like who's who in the rose world. The RRRS was fortunate to have such rose notables and experts as Vickie Agee, Dr John Allen, Elizabeth Baker, Mike Becker, Claude Graves, Kathy Harris, Carolyn Hayward, Jim Herbison, Dr Don Johnson, Dennis Jones, Nancy Joslin, Kai Kunnapas, Dr Kevin Ong, Jimmy Sanford, Dr Peter Schaar, Kim Schofield, Pam Smith, Mark Stelljes, Jessie Stephens, and Jack Walter. And, the RRRS was privileged to have magnificent musings from our very own Sue Abernathy, June Boyett, Bill Cashin, Gerald Frimann, Barb Grisham, Sandra Haynes, Terry Irvin, Carole Mainwaring, and Richard McGowan as they shared their knowledge, enthusiasm and talents with the congregation.

In addition to increasing the members rose knowledge at the monthly meetings, the RRRS also conducted seminars for the public geared at "Putting Your Roses to Bed" in November 2009 to "Waking Up Your Roses" in February 2010. Members also took the show on the road. Sue Abernathy spoke at both the Lake Kiowa and Sherman Garden Clubs; Sue Zanne Petersen saved the RRRS booth rental fees by speaking at the 2010 Earth Day Festival; and, Bill Cashin and Jerry Haynes awed the audiences at Twin Oaks Nursery. Road trips were well received and the RRRS brigade descended on the Tyler Rose Gardens, Farmers Branch Rose Gardens, and the Chambersville Tree Farms Heritage Rose Gardens. Bill Cashin also shared his knowledge and expertise in propagating roses with three classes. One of our best received educational opportunities is the annual Rosarian Panel where members get to pick the brains of our best. Our crowning glory in the educational arena, was the 2011 Consulting Rosarian Course. This RRRS hosted event drew over 60 people from Texas, Arkansas, and Oklahoma. Rosarians flocked to hear Don Adlong, Ed Bradley, Jerry Haynes, Carole Mainwaring, Kim Schofield, Carol Shockley, and Baxter Williams. Sue Abernathy, Bill Cashin, Nancy Grella, and Sandra Haynes took the challenge and are now Consulting Rosarians. The RRRS can boast 12 Consulting Rosarians in the fold.

As everyone knows, a society needs money to maintain and sustain itself. We cannot thank our members enough for their continued support—and dues. The RRRS also raises revenue through annual rose sales. To date, the RRRS has held four rose sales with the fifth in planning stages for April 2012. Most of our rose sale success can be credited to Bill Cashin—rose propagator extraordinaire. Bill has provided well over 500 roses for the sales! We also have a true unsung hero helping us raise money. Joe Abernathy has graciously and generously opened a Shear Sharpening Service. He makes our favorite pruners, shears, and loppers like new. The RRRS also hawks laser rose labels and embroidered red polo shirts—we are fashionistas!.

Now we don't want people to think that the RRRS only takes...we are very adamant giving back. Becoming a RRRS member brings many perks. For \$20.00 a year (dues which have never been raised!), people receive a rose, discounts at local nurseries, *Our Gardens of Roses* binder (which won a 2009 American Rose Society (ARS) Award of Merit), and a 4-month trial membership in the ARS. We also hold drawings at each monthly meeting giving away at least three door prizes. The RRRS is also an ARS Patron, a South Central District Patron and a donor to the 2011 ARS 100 Grand Campaign. Additionally, we have given financial support to both the Tulsa and Houston Rose Shows.

As a neophyte society, we made do with a monthly flyer to keep members posted on upcoming RRRS events and meetings. We thought we were pretty cool! Knowing we could do better, June Boyett stepped in as editor and took us up a couple of notches. Then thankfully for the RRRS, Carole Mainwaring joined the congregation. Carole took June's prototype newsletter and developed *Roses on the Red*. In one short year, Carole garnered the attention of everyone and *Roses on the Red* was awarded the ARS 2009 Bulletin/Newsletter Contest Division B Gold Certificate—the best in the nation! Not one to rest on her laurels, Carole captured the gold again in 2010 with *Roses on the Red* in the Electronic Bulletin Division. We are truly blessed with tremendous talent in the RRRS. Both Carole Mainwaring and Jerry Haynes won ARS 2009 Awards of Merit for articles they published in *Roses on the Red*. In 2010, Jerry Haynes, Sue Zanne Petersen, and Carolyn Hayward took home Awards of Merit. Additionally, the RRRS has honored Bill Cashin, Richard McGowan, Carole Mainwaring, Sue Abernathy, and Nancy Grella with a Bronze Medal for their contributions to the society.

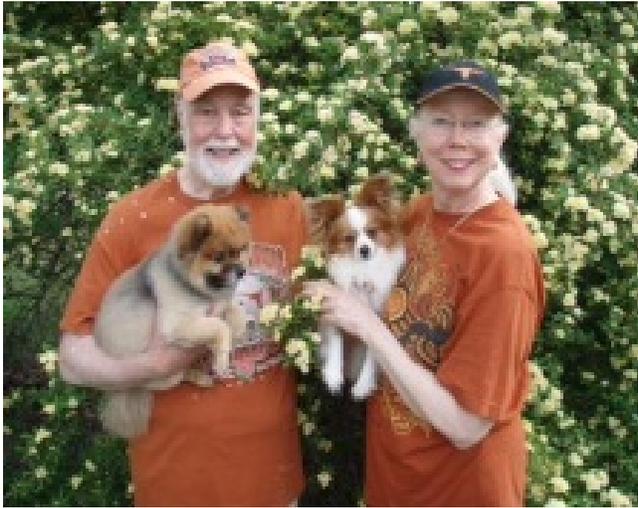
In 2009, the RRRS went global with its own website redriversociety.com. Although most of the 'visitors' hail from Texas, Oklahoma, and the United States, the website has been visited by people in 74 countries: Canada, India, Germany, United Kingdom, Russia, Thailand, Brazil, Australia, Hungary, France, Poland, Netherlands, Taiwan, Malaysia, Sweden, Philippines, Vietnam, Switzerland, Pakistan, Japan, Slovenia, Spain, Serbia, China, Latvia, Austria, Ukraine, Belgium, Greece, South Africa, Indonesia, United Arab Emirates, Hong Kong, Croatia, South Korea, Sri Lanka, Bulgaria, Romania, Nigeria, Denmark, Saudi Arabia, Egypt, Slovakia, Mexico, Turkey, Kenya, Singapore, Qatar, Portugal, Lithuania, Estonia, Saint Lucia, Mauritius, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Guatemala, Macedonia, Chile, Afghanistan, Colombia, Botswana, Israel, Georgia, Paraguay, Finland, Czech Republic, Montenegro, Ethiopia, Ecuador, Ireland, Tunisia, Moldova, Norway, and Italy. I think that is pretty darn impressive! Did you know, the RRRS can claim it is an international rose society—we have members in the United Kingdom!

To commemorate five years of supporting the RRRS, the Executive Board decided to mark the occasion with gold rose pins. The Red River Rose Society's charter members are the first to receive the pins: **Sue Abernathy, June Boyett, Bill Cashin, Phyllis Coker, Judy Fisher, Colleen Frimann, Gerald Frimann, Gordon Green, Nancy Grella, Barb Grisham, Charles Hall, Terry Irvin, Phyllis Lawrence, Richard McGowan, Sue Zanne Petersen, Lacy Price, Emery Sexton, Shirley Sexton, and Harriet Steward.**



Here's to our continued success!





Rosarian Spotlight: Ron and Cherry Cunningham

I am a 7th generation Texan, have always lived in Texas and have been in Grayson County since 1972. Ron is a first generation Texan who was born and raised in New Orleans. We met on a blind date in Austin when I was finishing up my nursing degree at the University of Texas and he was finishing up his Master's at Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary. We have a grown son and 4 dogs including a Papillon named ROSE. I am semi-retired and still work one day a week as a Licensed Counselor. Ron is a semi-retired Psychologist and is the pastor at Hyde Park Presbyterian Church in Denison. We live on five acres east of Denison. Ed and Ann Supina brought us into the Red River Rose Society (RRRS) fold in 2009.

Why do you grow roses?

Ron and I both grew up loving flowers although Ron still asserts that his favorite roses are silk ones. His favorite flower growing up was the camellia. We tried but we could never get camellias to grow in Grayson County. Then we attempted gardenias with no luck during this area's long freezes. In the 80's, we decided to give roses a try. Our first rose was a **Peace** and it was fabulous! The spring before one of the bad droughts of the 1980's, it had over 250 huge blooms. We then tried some boxed rose hybrids that fizzled after a couple of years. By sheer luck, we stumbled upon an **Old Blush**. Even after transplanting it during one hot summer in the early 1990's, it is still flourishing.

How many roses do you grow? What are a few of your favorite roses?

We presently have 21 roses. Thanks to Carole Mainwaring, 20 of the 21 are named. When I started, I did not keep the names or the labels which was a big mistake. We have two once bloomers -- a huge **Lady Banksia** gifted to us by my brother and a **Dorothy Perkins** that Ron won at one of the RRRS meetings. Both are gorgeous and people often stop their cars to talk to us about them. I love Old Garden Roses and absolutely loved a **Mme Issac Periere** that had over 150 blooms last spring before the heat got her. My favorites now are **Blush Noisette**, (a gift from Woodye Mercer), **New Dawn**, and **Mutabilis** ►





Also at the top of the list is **Cramoisi Superieur** , **White Delight**,
 ◀ **Climbing Dublin Bay** (a gift from Patsy Powell), and of course,
Old Blush. **Old Blush** is the first to bloom in the spring and the last
 to bloom in the fall. We also added a **Graham Thomas** in spring
 2011. It is thriving and even bloomed during the summer 2011
 drought.

How do you care for your roses?

I do prune. Ron loves to water so we do that also. I also mulch every year but don't do much else.

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

The best advice I would give to a novice gardener is to join the Red River Rose Society. This group contains some of the most fabulous people who are such good people and generous with their time, talents, advice and products. Buy your roses from the RRRS because not only are they are outstanding plants but the price is really reasonable. Attend all of the RRRS meetings and programs that you can. And finally, go to seminars Barb Palmer holds at her Sweetwater Farms Nursery.



Do you have a secret tip to share?

My secret tip is really not very secret -- I am not afraid to ask questions of the experts. We are replete with incredible resources at the RRRS. I would not have had the success I do without my mentors, Carole Mainwaring and Ed Supina. Carole is wonderful and her personality encourages questions and promotes learning. Carole has helped me identify all of the roses except this one. Ed is the most wonderful hands-on-person. He

▲ (Any ideas anyone?) showed me how to prune and care for my roses. My other secret tip is to find someone to dig holes. Ron and Scott, our son, plant my roses for me because digging is not easy for me. We also have fabulous soil at our home and Twin Oaks Nursery once told me that we could sell it un-amended.

Do you do something out of the ordinary with your roses?

Nothing out of the ordinary.

What is the funniest experience you have had growing roses?

This really isn't funny but about three years ago, our **Souvenir de la Malmaison** was blooming like crazy and we heard a loud crash. Our mailman and a neighbor had a collision in front of the house, took down part of our fence and the rose bit the dust basically. It is still alive and full of buds right now but is a fleeting ghost of its former lush self. **Souvenir** was the only catastrophe of the collision fortunately.



What companion plants do you grow?

So many of the companion plants I love are purple and are blooming profusely right now -- grape hyacinths, ajuga and larkspurs. We also have a fabulous iris bed, great lantanas, and Turk's caps (for the hummers of course). I am also trying nasturtiums. I loved them as a child and they are edible! I also have a few herbs but hope to add many more. Oh, how could I forget, Vickie White gave me some Morning Glory seeds last year that were extravagantly beautiful with cobalt blue



flowers. Now, I can share seeds too. Don't you just love "pass alongs"? ▲ This is our **Old Blush** sharing space with a crape myrtle.

Do you see any parallels between your career/life and gardening?

I definitely see parallels between gardening and life. I think mostly that with roses and with people if you guide but don't interfere, let it do the best that it can and love it, it will thrive. Over tending is not good for the cared for or the caregiver and just creates a lot of dependence. Take the talents that are there and don't try to make a climber into a bush rose or a person into someone they don't want to be. Everyone needs the basics-- food, water, sunshine and a little manure in their lives to grow. Yes, I do believe that just the right amount of manure makes for good roses and for good people. Too much, however, is lethal for either. For me, the hardest part of having roses is the spade pruning. It is also that way for me in life as it takes a lot for me give up on a rose or a person. I always want to give a rose or a person another chance.

Do you write poetry, keep a gardening journal, enjoy roses for the solitude and inspiration, or for exercise?

I do write poetry and have even written a song in the past. Roses make my heart sing and so does music. One of my favorites is Perry Como's song 'The Christmas Rose'. We even named one of our dogs Rose. I do keep a gardening diary and a journal of all RRRS meetings with the clippings of the meetings from the Herald Democrat. In the journal are also pictures of my roses. Ron and I love to walk around our yard and look at the roses. Scott and I walk a couple of miles 5-6 times/week and I am always scoping at our neighbor's roses and flowers as we walk.

What is your main interest in roses?

Roses are just beautiful and here for a very short time. They pour out their hearts to us so lavishly and unselfishly. The more you clip them, the more they bloom and thrive. Roses truly put a song in my heart.

"One of the most tragic things I know about human nature is that all of us tend to put off living. We are all dreaming of some magical rose garden over the horizon instead of enjoying the roses that are blooming outside our windows today."



Dale Carnegie



WATCH THOSE “ROSEBITES”

Sporotrichosis is a disease of concern to all rosarians as well as farmers, foresters and nursery personnel. It is sometimes known as the “rose gardener or rose picker’s disease.”

It is caused by the fungus *Sporothrix schenckii*. The natural habitat of the fungus is soil, sphagnum moss, and plant material including rose prickles (thorns). It has also been found in commercial potting soil.

The typical infection in the rosarian is a chronic skin and subcutaneous wound that begins as a “rosebite” that just will not heal. The fungus on the prickle is injected into the tissue, and begins to grow and secrete their metabolites into the tissue. This irritation and the body’s attempt to fight the infection cause the wound to suppurate (make pus), ulcerate (digest the tissue) and drain. The infection will follow the lymphatic channels up the arm. Once this infection is established, it will not heal without treatment that must continue for several months. In some cases, the disease may spread to other parts of the body: bone, joint and lung. There is no immunization for sporotrichosis.

My recommendations to prevent sporotrichosis:

- 1) Do not quit growing roses; do not join a fear of fungus support group. This is an uncommon disease. In my 30-year career as a surgeon, I have seen two cases of sporotrichosis, both in Ghana, West Africa.
- 2) If you use sphagnum moss in your gardening or craft projects, wear gloves and long sleeves and store it inside under dry conditions. The largest epidemic of sporotrichosis in the United States (1988) affected 84 people who handled sphagnum moss. One clarification: Sphagnum *peat* moss is widely used by gardeners as a soil amendment although many would say that this practice is helping destroy natural bog environments in our world. It is the stuff in the big bags at the box stores. The product is dead, partially decomposed material that accumulates in the lower level of the peat bog. It does not carry the fungus that causes sporotrichosis. Sphagnum moss, on the other hand is the living moss that grows on top of a sphagnum bog. It is widely used in the floral industry for wreaths or to line hanging wire baskets.
- 3) Wear your favorite hand, body and eye protection when working with your roses and keep those rosebites clean.
- 4) If you do get a rosebite that will not heal and ulcerates, get thee to thy favorite physician. It is well worth taking a couple of the 10 minutes you are allotted to talk about your gardening lifestyle as it should lead your health care provider to consider sporotrichosis in the differential diagnosis.
- 5) Remember: a life without thorns is a life without roses.

Reprinted with permission from Dr Mary Mastin, M.D., Rocky Mountain District



The ARS Garden Center

By Richard McGowan

The gardens of the American Rose Society (ARS) are not hard to find. They're close to Exit 5, just north of Interstate 20 and just east of Shreveport, Louisiana. A couple of seedy motels make a convenient and inexpensive overnight for a 9 a.m. opening time start on the 118 acre tract.

Our 9:15 a.m. arrival in early October was greeted by an empty car park and a locked entrance to the Visitor Center. Eventually a friendly lady opened up and apologized. The empty car parking area meant the gardens were empty too. They were not used to visitors. A severe summer drought—the same one we suffered in Texas—had kept the gardens from looking their best, she said. On top of that, we were told the deer regularly munched the roses. She wouldn't charge us an admission fee.

The gatekeeper's warning was accurate. We had difficulty finding a single rose in bloom among all those intricately planned and dedicated beds. Many bushes were dead. All of them looked neglected. Three workmen were assembling a faux Christmas tree.

But, at the end of our wanderings came a treat. We found a section about the size of two tennis courts, surrounded by a ten-foot chain link and filled with roses blazing their hearts out under the gentle morning sun. With the gate unlatched, we entered. Carefully labeled bushes planted in several repeated beds made us realize it was the Easy Teas project.

Here were hybrid tea and floribunda roses exposed to the same standards of neglect that tested the Earth Kind varieties. Clearly there were some winners, some that could produce even under neglect. Our inexperienced eyes looked for bushes producing the most blooms and showing little or no black spot. Here are the ones we agreed on: ***Olympiad, Fragrant Cloud, St. Patrick, Granada, Gemini, Tropicana, Rio Samba, Pascali, Sunset Celebration, Veterans' Honor, Frederick Mistral, and Midas Touch.***

And there were three to which we could not resist giving special honors. These were the most floriferous on the day of our visit: ***Opening Night, Tiffany, and Elle.***



Our visit was not a complete disappointment. ARS was doing something good here, something deeply beneficial to rose growing. Someday we'll know their final story.

Photos from helpmefindroses.com website

Consulting Rosarian Report for Spring 2012

By Jerry Haynes

Spring has definitely sprung, but our forsythia bush was totally messed up this year. It bloomed in late February and then, bloomed again this last week! I think our exceptionally mild winter confused the forsythia bush! I did prune some of my rose bushes during the last couple of weeks, but I did not prune any of my Earthkind roses. (Although, I will have to remove about a third of the canes from my **Pink Knockout** because there are just too many canes.) This decision came about by my general philosophy of not doing anything that I don't have to. The EarthKind roses are just now beginning to bud and it looks like an excellent season for blooms. The bushes are covered with buds that will open this next week and look gorgeous!

So far, I have fertilized with only 21-0-0. In early April, I'll apply a gallon (diluted) of Mark Stelljes' RosesInc, Tulsa, fertilizer with micro-nutrients for each bush. In May, I'll fertilize with an organic fertilizer like fish emulsion and add a couple of tablespoons of Epsom salts per bush. By June, I'll fertilize again with 21-0-0. In our Black Houston clay soil, usually only nitrogen fertilizer is needed as the soil already has good supplies of Phosphorous and Potassium. This soil also has a pH of about 8.3, so adding some sulfur is usually required to bring the pH down to 6.5, which is perfect for roses and good for most garden plants and vegetables.

Soils tend to revert to their original pH over time and it is important to be somewhat close to the ideal pH by adding sulfur to bring your soil into the proper pH. Since we rosarians usually amend our planting beds a good deal anyway, it is best to get a soil test every three years. Now if you are living in an area that has sandy loam soil, you may have to add gypsum to raise the pH. Again, get a soil test. If you need someone to interpret the soil test results, ask any Consulting Rosarian to help you figure out how much of what to put on your soil.

A Fertilizer Primer: What's In that Rose Food?

By Jill Barnard

Roses love to grow. Given minimal care they will survive and produce flowers. With a regular feeding program and a varied diet, roses will thrive and produce armloads of large, beautiful blooms. There are many types of fertilizers, liquid (soluble) or dry (granular), organic or in-organic. Find a program that works for you, but do it on a once-a-month basis during the growing season.

ORGANIC vs IN-ORGANIC

Organic (or natural) fertilizers are derived from any formerly living plant or animal matter. Most commonly used are blood meal, cottonseed meal, bone meal or superphosphate, alfalfa meal and fish meal. Manures - chicken, rabbit and steer are also in this category. Organics are generally slower-release, as they require decomposition by soil micro-organisms before being usable by the plant. They supply benefits to the soil in addition to food for the plants, and should therefore be a regular part of your amendment program. In-organic (or chemical) plant foods are man-made compositions, formulated for various speeds of release, but generally provide an immediate food source for our heavy-feeding roses, as compared to organic foods. Brand name manufactured rose foods include Fertilome, Miracle-Gro, RapidGro, Sterns, Peters, etc. Roses utilize both natural and chemical food sources equally, and benefit greatly from use of both, on an alternating basis.

"BALANCED" ROSE FOOD

The term is used frequently, and simply means that a fertilizer has a blend of Nitrogen, Phosphorus, and Potassium (N-P-K), though not necessarily in equal parts, in a formulation beneficial for roses. Nitrogen, Phosphorus and Potassium are the three major ingredients required by all plant materials, in varying proportions, dependent upon the plant's needs. Fertilizers, by law, have a numerical N-P-K ratio printed on the container. A 6-12-6 ratio means that the mixture contains 6% Nitrogen, 12% Phosphorus and 6% Potassium. It contains 24% total nutrients and 76% filler material. 6-12-6 is considered a Balanced Rose Food, as it supplies the basic ingredients in proportions beneficial to roses on a continual basis. Roses utilize each ingredient at differing times of the growth and blooming cycles. More Nitrogen is needed for early spring growth of stems and foliage, plus continual moderate supply during the entire growing season. Phosphorus is for roots and blooms; a higher phosphorus food should be supplied from 3 weeks before blooming until blooming. Potassium provides health for the plant, a catalyst for Nitrogen and Phosphorus. It also builds in hardiness to heat, drought and cold, and is therefore a good supplement just prior to the dormant season. Each of the three ingredients may be purchased separately for addition to specialized feedings.

NITROGEN SOURCES

When we add organic matter to our soil, its nitrogen content is not immediately available to the plant; it must first be broken down during the decay process. During that process, matter is transformed first into ammonium, then to nitrite, and finally to nitrate forms. While the process can take from several days to years, various compounds are formed which are used by soil microorganisms for their own growth. Since the nitrogen required by rose bushes is mainly in the nitrate form, the importance of chemical fertilizers becomes evident: to supply instantly available via nitrate forms; plus nitrogen available within a short space of time via ammonium forms (urea and ammonium phosphates, etc). A fertilizer containing all three sources – nitrate, ammonium and urea is superior. Learn to read labels to determine nitrogen sources.

PHOSPHORUS and POTASSIUM

Both are supplied as primary nutrients in balanced fertilizers. Phosphorus moves very slowly in the soil, so applications are available only to the feeder roots within a few inches of the soil surface. Continued use ensures that a supply of phosphorus will eventually reach the lower root structures, provided the soil pH is proper. The importance of placing bone meal or superphosphate in the bottom of the planting hole becomes clear – newly planted roses need phosphorus supplied at the root zone. Potassium also moves slowly and is not readily leached from the soil. However, it is extremely mobile within the plant system, where it can be leached from the leaves (its primary destination), by rain or irrigation. A continual supply of potassium is good practice.

SECONDARY and MICRO NUTRIENTS

In an effort to provide the ultimate balanced fertilizer for roses, some formulations include secondary nutrients (calcium, magnesium, and sulphur, etc.). Sulphur is an excellent ingredient to help acidify alkaline soils, lowering the pH. Where soils are acid, additions of lime will raise the pH. High calcium content in soils such as our blackland clay, can render magnesium unavailable – another good reason to add Epsom Salts (magnesium sulphate) continually. Epsom Salts also promote more growth from the bud union on grafted roses. Micronutrients (iron, zinc, manganese, copper, cobalt, boron, chlorine and molybdenum) are added in some formulations as well. Percentages are typically small, as roses require

only small amounts of these elements. Consider a fertilizer with chelated forms of micronutrients as most desirable, as they are the most usable by the plant.

“CHELATED” ELEMENTS (Iron, Zinc, Manganese, etc.)

Several trace elements already exist in soils, and are added to fertilizers as an additional supply. If the soil pH is too high (above 7.0), some elements become unusable (insoluble) by the plant. This is especially true of iron and manganese, and to a lesser degree, copper, zinc and boron. Chemical reactions in the soil slowly convert the elements into soluble forms. First, soil pH must be adjusted to the 6.0 – 7.0 range, then usable forms of the elements must be added. “Chelates”, without getting too scientific, are simply forms of each element that remain soluble in the soil, and are readily available to the plant. However, since this solubility allows them to readily move out of the root zone with irrigation, repeated applications are needed. Hence, the value of a fertilizer with chelated forms of trace elements included.

This new knowledge of fertilizers is only a basic beginning to understanding the needs of roses. An excellent program to continually acquire new techniques to grow roses is available through membership in the American Rose Society. The American Rose Magazine is alone worth the low membership fee, and can save you money in reduced costs through your better understanding of how to grow roses!

Reprinted with permission from Jill Barnard.



Joese's Shear Sharpening Service

Have you dulled your favorite pruners, loppers and shears after this spring's beautification chores? If so, let Joe bring them back to life. Remember, sharp tools are safer tools! For \$5.00 per tool, Joe will revitalize your favorites. Bring your tool(s) to the April meeting and pick them up at the May meeting.



My musings:

Have you ever noticed that as gas prices rapidly grow, so do the weeds and grass!



RRRS Quarterly Recap



The Red River Rose Society leapt into the New Year with a spectacular presentation on David Austin's roses by Carole Mainwaring at its January meeting. David Austin's English roses are one of Carole's many passions. Born in 1926, David Austin was an English farmer who did not like the direction in which rose growers were leading the popular hybrid tea varieties. He did not like roses that were more admired in the bud stage than when they were fully opened; he did not like the fact that hybrid teas were losing the fragrance for which roses had been noted; and, he did not like roses that looked up at the sky when they should be looking at the people looking at them. He liked roses that had natural bushy shapes and pleasant foliage as a background for the flowers. And, he liked healthy roses not prone to the diseases and pests that plague the hybrid teas and floribundas.

With those goals in mind he attempted to cross old roses that had delicate charm and fragrance with modern roses that provided a wide color range and repeat flowering. In 1961 David Austin produced his first English Rose, **Constance Spry**, a strongly fragrant pink that is still one of their most popular varieties. Carole warned that under the Texas sun, many of the Austin roses grow larger than they do in England. Conversely, many Austin varieties that prefer the cooler, wetter English climate do not do well for us.

President Jerry Haynes presented Carole with a porcelain red rose in appreciation for the hundreds of hours she had devoted to bringing RRRS to prominence in the rose world with the newsletter *Roses on the Red*. Three door prizes, all donated by Carole Mainwaring, were awarded to members: Charles Hall received a pruning saw; Jim Rogers took home long, rose pruning gloves; and, Dale Howard (our perpetual drawing winner) garnered the fish fertilizer.



February's featured entertainment was the dynamic duo of Gerald Frimann and Richard McGowan with a pruning demonstration. These two RRRS members are responsible for the roses planted as part of the Grayson County Master Gardener project at Eisenhower Birthplace Historic Site in Denison and have had considerable experience pruning about 50 rose bushes planted at the site, as well as their own extensive personal collections.

The Dead, the Dinky, the Damaged and the Directionally Challenged were the targets of their pruning attacks. Any cane thinner than a pencil, any cane rubbing another, and any that are headed in the wrong direction have to be removed completely without leaving a stub. Then for most roses, shortening all canes by about a third makes sense. Except for some roses it doesn't. The EarthKinds and most OGRs bloom perfectly well with no shortening at all. To develop the best pruning technique requires experimenting and getting to know what your rose bush likes.

But prune you must, for pruning promotes healthy rose growth and maximum blooming. It's best done in the spring just before the last frost but not so early that new growth will be killed by the frost. When Frimann and McGowan finished, the table was covered with rose bits they had selectively snipped off the four potted victims.

February's Q&A revolved around 'hardening' off roses, planting, pruning, and the use of Epsom salts. Since most newly acquired roses have spent the previous months protected in a green house, it is best to acclimate them to the environment slowly before putting them in the ground where they are subject to not only colder temperatures and gusty winds but the strong sun rays. Although there are as many opinions as there are rose growers about the use of Epsom salts, Carole Mainwaring (the RRRS go-to pro), says she uses Epsom salts twice a year to promote basal breaks on her roses.

Five door prizes were awarded to members: Ann Supina and Sandra Haynes took home Mme. Alfred Carriere, a climbing rose; Ron Cozort and Linda Spiller each received an American Rose Society magazine; and, Kathy Rogers got rose-themed, stamped postcards. And lastly, the RRRS celebrated its 5th birthday by presenting gold rose pins and The Rose for Today to its 18 charter members.





March's featured speaker was Pam Smith, Park Landscape Manager for The Rose Gardens of Farmers Branch. Jerry Haynes introduced her as "a rose guru beyond our comprehension". Pam designed the Park's Historical Rose Garden and oversees the largest EarthKind trial garden in the United States. In addition, Pam is in charge of the huge annual rose display scheduled for the Dallas Arboretum on April 28 this year.



Pam's hints for successful landscaping in any garden are to seek unity, color, texture, balance and simplicity. To achieve these, you must start with a plan. The plan can be a simple diagram of your house and lot and how you plan to use the available areas. You have permission to change your landscape, Pam said, so don't feel that any features are permanent. Gardening is a journey, she reminded us, never a destination.

Her favorite landscaping tool is the flexible garden hose which can be bent to any shape that pleases her while she lays out beds. Pam is a great believer in the generous use of finished compost (it has an earthy smell) and expanded shale in our predominantly clay soils. According to Pam, three to four inches of plain hardwood mulch is a must for plant survival in summer plus it is the best slow release fertilizer you can buy.

March's Q&A focused on the bug and disease assault the roses are facing with the early arrival of spring weather. The RRRS Consulting Rosarians recommended that the most commonly found rose products, like Bayer 3-in-1, will work well **IF** the package directions are followed carefully.

Four door prizes were awarded to members: Sandra Haynes garnered a Rose Themed Scarf; Darryl Odom received an American Rose Society magazine; Sue Zanne Petersen received the 2008 ARS Magazine Collection; and, Kathy Rogers took home a pink ceramic rose (Jim was really the drawing winner but we just knew Kathy would end up with it as a Mother's Day token anyway).



Up Coming Events

Saturday	April 21 st	5 th Annual RRRS Sale (and GC Master Gardener Plant Sale) 8:00 to sell out Grayson County Courthouse Lawn
Saturday	April 21 st	Collin County Rose Society Annual Rose Garden Tour
Saturday	April 28 th	Dallas Rose Society 2012 Spring Rose Show "Wedding Bells" 1:00 to 3:30 Dallas Arboretum
Saturday	May 19 th	Tulsa Rose Society Spring Rose Show Tulsa Garden Center
Sunday	May 20 th	Grayson County Master Gardener Annual Garden Tour

The Red River Rose Society

Officers

President.....Jerry Haynes
260 Forest Meadow Drive 210-601-1066
Gunter, TX 75058 jhaynes@solbroadband.com
Vice President.....Gerald Frimann
903-813-1318 jerrfrim@verizon.net
Secretary/Treasurer.....Nancy Grella
903-868-9811 nancygrella@verizon.net
Past President.....Sue Abernathy
903-523-5029 sueellen07@verizon.net

April Newsletter Compiler

Nancy Grella.....903-868-9811
nancygrella@verizon.net

Events Photographer

Gerald Frimann.....903-813-1318
jerrfrim@verizon.net

Publicist

Richard McGowan.....903-463-7421
RJMCQG@cablone.net

Consulting Rosarian Coordinator

Sue Abernathy.....903-523-5029
sueellen07@verizon.net

ARS Judges

Virginia Carpenter.....903-938-4465
kwroses@aol.com

Don and Brenda Johnson.....918-227-1954
no1roseman@aol.com

Carole Mainwaring.....972-985-8316
cmainwak5@aol.com

Webmaster

Jay Goode.....972-517-9560
sandijay@msn.com

Ask a Consulting Rosarian

Sue Abernathy.....903-523-5029
sueellen07@verizon.net

*Virginia Carpenter.....903-938-4465
kwroses@aol.com

Bill Cashin.....940-464-3068
billcashin@verizon.net

Gerald Frimann.....903-813-1318
jerrfrim@verizon.net

Nancy Grella.....903-868-9811
nancygrella@verizon.net

Kathy Harris.....972-620-1131
kharris747@yahoo.com

Jerry Haynes.....210-601-1066
jhaynes@solbroadband.com

Sandra Haynes.....210-601-1066
shaynes@solbroadband.com

*Don and Brenda Johnson.....918-227-1954
no1roseman@aol.com

Carole Mainwaring.....972-985-8316
cmainwak5@aol.com

* 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 neither 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 Denison Public Library, 300 W Gandy, Denison, TX 75020 (903-465-1797) at 6:30pm.

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



Join us at the
5th Annual Rose Sale
Saturday, April 21st
8:00 to ????
Grayson County Courthouse Lawn
Sherman
Come Early – Shop Fast!