



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



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President's Corner

An **equinox** occurs twice a year (around 20 March and 22 September), when the tilt of the Earth's axis is inclined neither away from nor towards the Sun, the center of the Sun being in the same plane as the Earth's equator. I love the cooler temperatures we have been having as a result! TGIC – Thank Goodness It's Cooler!

October is chocked full of activities for the rose lover. Farmers Branch is hosting their **3rd Annual Bloomin' Bluegrass Festival** on Saturday October 20th. Coupled with wonderful speakers at the festival, the Dallas Rose Society is holding their annual rose show. It is well worth the drive to Farmers Branch to see outstanding roses, rose arrangements and rose photography at a very high level. The Dallas Rose Show is one of the best rose shows in the nation. And, two of our own, Carole Mainwaring will be doing the results tabulation while yours truly will be the Judges Reference Consulting Rosarian. It is always a great show and you will be doing yourself a favor by taking it in!

On Sunday October 21st, the action is a little closer to home. In Chambersville, you will find RoseDango's **Celebration of Blooms**. Gates open at 8:00am. The line-up of speakers is spectacular and includes Stephen Scanniello, Gregg Lowry, Anne Belovich, and Peggy Martin. RoseDango promises a day filled with festivities, vendors, and even a little wine.

But most importantly, a big **Thank you** to Kay Karns, Vice President, Harriet Stewart, Treasurer, Martha Mangrum, Secretary, and my favorite Rosarian, Sandra Haynes, President! These fine folk have stepped up to the plate as your new officers for 2013-2014. There will be a few more people added to the Board for specific Chairs as these officers set up their new organization.

Meet Your New RRRS Officers



From left-to-right: Sandra Haynes, Kay Karns, Harriet Steward, and Martha Mangrum



Joes' Shear Sharpening Service

I bet you dulled your favorite pruners, loppers and shears after this August's 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 October meeting and pick them up at the November meeting. Spring will be here before you know it!





'Mme Alfred Carriere' growing with abandon!

(Photo by Carole Mainwaring)

How to Neglect Your Rose Garden (and still have one to enjoy!)

By Carole Mainwaring

No one plans to neglect a garden...especially after spending countless hours and dollars getting one established. Yet, just when you find yourself reveling in your garden's beauty and order, something can happen to keep you away for weeks—if not months. That 'something' could be a good thing (wedding, birth of a grandchild, new project) or a bad thing (serious illness, injury, loss of a loved one). Whatever the reason, you find yourself without the time and energy you need to water, fertilize, deadhead, weed...all those many chores that keep your garden at its best. What to do now?

It seems paradoxical to say, then, that the best way to neglect your garden *is* to plan to do so—but this is really great advice! Haven't you said before, "If only I knew then what I know now, I'd..." Deconstructing the steps to putting in and maintaining a garden can actually be very useful as you prepare for that day (which WILL come!) when you are forced to put the garden on hold. It is such a tragedy to see a beautiful garden go into serious decline when some simple steps could have prevented many of the problems. Here, then, are some ideas to help you prepare for and survive the inevitable.

1. Choose roses that can handle neglect. Roses that have survived over the centuries and in neglected places like abandoned homesteads and cemeteries will have a much better chance of enduring drought, poor soil conditions, disease and insect attacks, and lack of basic care. Consider the EarthKind roses, the 'Knock Out' roses, the Buck roses, the Home Run® series of roses, the Drift® roses...any rose that is described as hardy and disease and drought resistant. Read rose descriptions carefully, ask Consulting Rosarians in your area for recommendations and be firm about shovel pruning a sickly bush that does not perform well in your garden. Neglecting hybrid teas and miniature roses will be more challenging because many were bred for bloom form and color and not hardiness or disease resistance. Some of the newer varieties are proving to be much more hardy and disease resistant; however, so do give them a try. 'Sunshine Daydream', a grandiflora hybridized by Meidiland International, and

'Francis Meidiland'™, a hybrid tea also hybridized by Meidiland, are two worth trying.



'Sunshine Daydream'

Photo from <http://www.rose.org/2012-winner-sunshine-daydream/>



'Francis Meidiland'™

Photo from http://www.conard-pyle.com/index.cfm?fuseaction=srplants.plantDetail&plant_id=1876

1. Remember that it's all about the soil. Hopefully, all your bed preparation and planting will take place during the less stressful periods of your life. During this more peaceful period, take your time to amend your soil and build beds that will last well into the future. Using a good soil test, you can decide just what amendments to use and how and what to fertilize to keep the pH and nutrient levels in the optimal range. I have found that putting out one cup of a slow release fertilizer around each bush in late November just prior to covering the bud unions by hilling for the winter gives me a fertilizer boost in the spring when the soils warm up enough for the fertilizer to be activated. Then, if I am facing a medical challenge and can't apply spring fertilizer as quickly as I should, I at least am satisfied that something is already in place waiting to take effect. I do like to apply my version of enhanced alfalfa tea in March and August—even if the last bucket is added to the last bush in June! I know this way I am feeding my soil as well as my bushes. The timing is not always perfect, but the roses are still grateful. A good recipe for alfalfa tea is at this website: <http://www.karensgardentips.com/garden-types-styles-and-designs/rose-garden/an-elixir-for-roses-alfalfa-tea/>
2. Select the best watering option for your garden...and your talents and pockets. When I planted my garden 11 years ago, I circled every new rose bush with two loops of a soaker hose. I then ran drip irrigation to the base of each bush. This year I realized that every single one of my 14 rose beds had broken soaker hoses and drip irrigation lines due to weather stresses, attacks by weed eaters, loose cattle trampling on the lines (really!) and a klutzy gardener (me) who has no fix-it genes to rely on. I can verify that duct tape does not fix a broken soaker hose, and that it is impossible to locate lines hidden under six inches of mulch and rose bushes that refused to stay small. Trying to get under my rose "forest" now to fix a line is not worth risking life and limb. In hindsight, I should have put

in a more durable watering system. It would have been worth the cost since nothing I did install works. Since my health scare, my husband has been helping water the roses with a garden hose with sprinkler attachment that sprays two streams sideways rather than upwards. I water very deeply and much less often now...and the roses survived last year's record setting heat and drought in Texas. Do *not* think you can forgo watering; however...roses are not cacti! Without adequate water, they will die—just ask the bushes I lost because I thought the soaker hoses were working properly. Also, use a good three to six inch layer of mulch across the beds to help keep the soil cooler and wetter. It really works! Jim McCarty (Ft. Worth Rose Society's beloved horticulture editor), says, "If you love your roses, mulch them. If not, that is another problem."

3. Prune and deadhead...what happens when you don't? I'm happy to say that the bushes will survive without the obligatory winter and late summer pruning and deadheading after each bloom cycle. I'm sad to say that the blooms and bushes will not be at their best. I haven't pruned or deadheaded in two years and my garden shows it. The bushes are tall and lanky, the blooms are fewer and on the small side, and I know the mowing crew has to dodge canes that reach out to tear the shirts literally off their backs. I am hoping to whack away this coming winter. If you have good friends who are willing to help you with this chore as you take care of the business of getting well, don't be embarrassed to let them. If you are just too stubborn to let someone help you, then these chores can be ignored for awhile.
4. To spray or not to spray. I used to spray my roses every 7-10 days with a fungicide, insecticide and miticide (all as needed). I still spray, but only twice a month now. I follow all safety rules and guidelines and use all the safety equipment recommended faithfully. Next spring, I will use only sprays (as needed) that are safe for edible fruits and vegetables since we are growing fruit trees and garden produce near the rose beds and hope to harvest and eat to our heart's content. Becoming as spray-free as possible is a goal of mine...but I do worry about how healthy my roses and I will be then. Because of the West Nile Virus outbreak this year, it is safer to be at the ranch in the sprayed garden than in my own backyard in Plano where I never spray. It is worth noting that becoming spray free will make neglecting a garden much easier on one's time and pocket book.

Neglect is never a good thing; but, it is sometimes necessary (and sometimes the reason is a joyous one!). The loss of something important to us like our rose garden, something which has always given us much pleasure and peace, should be avoided, if possible. With a little planning and forethought, you can help your garden and yourself through these periods of neglect. And, the best part is, just like in *The Secret Garden*, your garden can once again be beautiful!



'Black Magic'

(Photo by Carole Mainwaring)

Meeting Recap

After taking the summer off to smell the roses, the Red River Rose Society swung back into its routine of monthly meetings. September's meeting featured the ever favorite panel of consulting rosarians, who fielded whatever rose-growing questions the members could throw at them. On the panel were Gerald Frimann, Carole Mainwaring, Sandra Haynes, and Jerry Haynes, with Sue Abernathy as moderator.



Lots of advice flowed from the experts. You should continue to fertilize lightly, water and mulch through the middle of October, they agreed, but light pruning should have been done in August to promote fall blooming. But there are no rules for pruning climbers as each variety varies in its needs. Old garden varieties need no pruning at all except what you need to do to keep them under control and out of the way.

Ron Schulz and Richard McGowan paid close attention to the discussion over the best fertilizers. It seemed every member had a favorite concoction. From fish emulsion, seaweed, chicken or horse or donkey manures, alfalfa, Epsom salts, to decayed fish compost and cleaned up sewer sludge all had strong advocates. Carole Mainwaring advocated a dose (1 cup per bush) of a delayed-release fertilizer such as Osmocote under the mulch in November so that it would be ready for instant feeding when the soil warms up in the spring.



The dreaded Rosette disease appears not to have increased in this area and members were advised not to confuse its effects with those of weed-killer sprays such as Round-up. A slight overspray of the herbicide can travel from a neighbor and produce the same slow killing effect as Rosette. Spring Dwarf Disease can also produce the same elongated, oddly-shaped and thorny appearance of rose canes as the "witch's broom" appearance associated with Rosette. But with Spring Dwarf when the weather warms up, the cane corrects itself.

Much thanks goes to Bill Cashin for paring down his library so that others could build theirs and to Ann Supina for her culinary creations. The lucky door prize recipients this month were Kathy Rogers, Jo Ellen Clardy, Terry Irvin, Darryl Odom, and Ron Cozort.

Roses in Review (RIR)

As you know, annually the American Rose Society seeks input for Roses in Review. 2012 marked the 87th year for the process. I didn't take the time to count the total number of cultivars listed this year but I can safely say it was more than 350. This group of cultivars is selected for ALL rosarians, not just consulting rosarians, to evaluate. In fact the more input received the better. Jack C. Williams, South Central District RIR Coordinator, shared our District results. (It will take some time to compile and publish the nation-wide results.) As you start planning for additions to your rose garden, you may want to use this as a guide.

<u>Number of Reports</u>	<u>Cultivar</u>	<u>Class</u>	<u>Garden Rating</u>	<u>Exhibition Rating</u>
13	Easy Does It	F	7.9	7.4
4	Colorific	F	7.7	7.5
5	Adobe Sunrise	F	7.6	7.4
4	Sweet Intoxication	F	7.6	7.3
16	Dick Clark	Gr	7.3	7.1
5	T.H. Coop	HT	8.1	8.5
5	Crescendo	HT	7.7	8.0
3	Mohana	HT	7.7	7.3
3	Grande Dame	HT	7.6	7.2
7	Sugar Moon	HT	7.5	6.5
7	Apricot Drift	S	8.0	6.3
6	Sunny Knock Out	S	7.9	7.3
6	Carefree Spirit	S	7.7	6.7

Scoring Scale:

9.3 to 10	One of the best roses ever.
8.8 to 9.2	An outstanding rose. One with major positive features and only minor negatives.
8.3 to 8.7	A very good to excellent rose. One you would recommend without hesitation.
7.8 to 8.2	A solid to very good rose. Its good features easily outweigh any problems.
7.3 to 7.7	A good rose. A little somewhat above average.
6.8 to 7.2	An average rose.
6.1 to 6.7	A below average rose.
0.0 to 6.0	Not recommended.

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 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 N Friendship Rd., Sherman, TX 75092.**

