



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

June 2014

Vol. 5 Number 5

## Presidents Corner

Sandra Haines

The beautiful first flush of roses and other flowers is just about over and now is the time to start dead-heading. There is always a down side for every outstanding delightful event in the garden. But the new blooms will make it worth the time you spend clipping the spent roses.

At the last May meeting, Kay Karns introduced the invitation from the Master Gardeners to participate in the Grayson Master Gardener's Fall Garden Show. A plan was made to vote at the June meeting

whether we will participate in the Grayson County Master Gardener's Fall Show. The show will take place at Loy Lake Park in Denison, TX, on October 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup>. There will be a charge of \$100.00 for a small table, for both days. We will only be answering questions and will put together a hand-out about the RRRS and provide some good advice about growing roses successfully in the Texoma area. We will not be selling anything nor having speakers on roses. The Master Gardeners will have an area for speakers. Neil Sperry will



be one of the speakers. We will need about 10 RRRS members to person the table in two-hour shifts for those two days. This is an opportunity to attract new RRRS members and promote roses. Please think about it and we will vote on it at the June meeting.



I cannot think of anything more delightful to write about than

## Hummingbirds – Sandra Hynes



Attracting hummingbirds to your backyard is easy. Hummingbirds are a delight to watch. Their acrobatic abilities to dart here, then there, hover, and fly backwards is fascinating to watch. Sitting on your patio or back porch to watch the hummingbirds visit your feeders or flowers in your garden can capture your heart and make you a hummingbird devotee. Texas is among three states that have the greatest hummingbird population in the U.S.

Here are some facts about hummingbirds:

Hummers eat small insects as well as nectar. The hummers will fly into a swarm of insects and dart around catching the small insects for their protein.

Their courtship involves the male displaying his beautiful, iridescent throat feathers to the female. (Don't be coy Baby!)

After mating the male goes on his merry way trying to lay claim to a feeder and protecting his feeder from any other hummingbird. To see a hummingbird bully at your feeder is not uncommon. Males can fight with their swords (bills), until death, but most of the time the other male darts off to find another feeder. Putting several feeders in the front and back of your house will attract more hummingbirds and make it more difficult for the bully to chase other hummingbirds away.

For most hummers it is the female that builds the nest from grasses, bits of lichen, spider webbing or sticky cocoons. She lays two eggs and feeds and cares for her young. The hatchlings are blind, naked and helpless for 12 to 15 days after hatching. Then the female brings nectar and very small insects and spiders to the fledglings. After a couple of weeks the fledglings are chased out of the nest to be on their own.



Feeding the hummingbirds is lots of fun with little work. Choose an appropriate feeder, that is sturdy, durable, easy to clean, and easy



for the hummers to reach the syrup. Hang the feeder high enough for domestic predators from snatching the birds and perhaps near a window or close to chairs in order to watch the hummers' antics. The nectar recipe is four parts water to one part sugar. Bring the water to a boil, add the sugar and stir until

completely dissolved. Cool to room temperature and then fill the clean feeders (do not use soap to clean, but just warm water and a brush to remove the sugar and mold. Do not use honey, molasses or artificial sugars. Do not add red food coloring. Change the water every three to four days to avoid mold. If you find you are throwing a lot of your prepared nectar away, try filling the feeders half full, or buy a smaller feeder.

Some hummingbirds prefer to get their nectar from flowers. Here is a list of flowers that are easy to grow in this area that hummers love:

Autumn sage

Bee balm

Cardinal flower

Columbine

Delphiniums

Scarlet four o'clock

Mexican sunflowers

Penstemon

Red sage or red salvia

Snapdragons

Texas sage

Zinnia

Coral honeysuckle

Cross vine

Trumpet creeper

Beauty bush

Butterfly bush

Lantana

Turk's cap

Red yucca

Desert willow

Purple horsemint

Red morning glory

Mexican buckeye

The little work it takes to fully enjoy watching and listening to the hummers in your yard is worth a great deal. You will never find a better stress reducer.





The Green Rose



Rosa Chinensis is an old heirloom China Rose.

*Red River Rose Society*  
*Will meet on June 17<sup>th</sup>, 6:30 p.m.*  
*At the Denison Library.*  
*Freda Riley will talk about*  
*The Dying and Spinning with roses*  
*Please join us at the North Rig Grill*  
*75 N. in Denison*  
*For dinner at 4:45 p.m.*



## ***Will grasshoppers invade your garden this summer?***

There is no magic word or puff of air that will rid your yard and garden of grasshoppers. It can be more work to eradicate grasshoppers than to put up with your lacey lettuce, holy leaves and nude stems. But here are several suggested methods. First method is to keep ducks or chicken or even turkeys and allow them to run around your gardens freely before you plant. When your garden is planted and growing, you keep these fowls in a “moat” built around your garden so they can eat any grasshoppers that tries to get across this “moat” into your garden.

To build a “moat”, you first surround your garden with one row of fencing such as chicken wire then put a second row of fencing parallel 6 feet or more away from the first row depending on the land available. Keep the fowls in this alleyway between the two rows of fence so that they can catch the grasshoppers coming through as they try to get to your garden.



A second alternative method can be quite successful when you wish to get rid of grasshoppers the organic way is to keep guinea fowls. However, the drawback is the noise the guinea fowls make. But they are handsome as well as being loud.

A third or better alternative suggested by Trisha Shirey, grounds manager at Lake Austin Spa Resort in Austin, Texas, is to stop them from eating your plants by using ordinary all-purpose flour.

First, you must gather the following items: 3 cups of plain all-purpose flour, a garden duster or salt shaker or any container with a shaker cover, and a garden hose.

The best time to use this method is early in the morning when there is no wind and there is still dew on the plants. The use of the garden hose or the dew will help the flour stay on your plant and not be blown away. You could also use this method after a rain.

Pour some flour into a container with a shaker top or the perforated paper bag. Before dusting the flour on the plants in your garden, give the foliage a shake in order to get the grasshoppers to move off the plants.

Dust the leaves AND the insects with the flour.

After 2 days, rinse off the flour from your plants. Use a fine spray in order not to damage your leaves. If the leaves are hairy (such as tomato leaves), you may need to rinse them twice.



If you need to repeat this method to get rid of grasshoppers, wait about a week before you dust your leaves again. As long as you don't leave the flour on the leaves for more than 2 days, the flour will not damage your plants.

If you get desperate, you know the grasshoppers are already eyeing our gardens. I, also have a recipe on 'How to Cook Grasshoppers', but that is for another day.



*The Black Dragon Rose*

# The Red River Rose Society

## **Officers**

President	Sandra Haynes 260 Forest Meadow Drive Gunter, TX 75058 201-861-1066		<a href="mailto:shaynes@solbroadband.com">shaynes@solbroadband.com</a>
Vice President	Kay Karns	505-205-5843	<a href="mailto:kaykarns@yahoo.com">kaykarns@yahoo.com</a>
Secretary	Martha Mangrum	903-815-5790	<a href="mailto:martha.mangrum@yahoo.com">martha.mangrum@yahoo.com</a>
Treasurer	Harriet Steward	903-465-8628	<a href="mailto:hsteward@cableone.net">hsteward@cableone.net</a>
Past President	Jerry Haynes	201-601-1066	<a href="mailto:jhaynes@solbroadband.com">jhaynes@solbroadband.com</a>
<b><u>Hospitality</u></b>	Meg Mayes	903-465-5769	<a href="mailto:mayesmeg@hotmail.com">mayesmeg@hotmail.com</a>
<b><u>Editor</u></b>	Sandra Haynes	201-861-1066	<a href="mailto:shaynes@solbroadband.com">shaynes@solbroadband.com</a>
<b><u>Photographer</u></b>	Gerald Frimann	903-813-1318	<a href="mailto:jerrfrim@verizon.net">jerrfrim@verizon.net</a>
<b><u>Publicist</u></b>	Richard McGowan	903-463-7421	<a href="mailto:RJMCG@cableone.net">RJMCG@cableone.net</a>
<b><u>CR Coordinator</u></b>	Bill Cashin	940-464-3068	<a href="mailto:billcashin@verizon.net">billcashin@verizon.net</a>

## **Ask a Consulting Rosarian**

Sue Abernathy	903-523-5029	<a href="mailto:sueellen07@verizon.net">sueellen07@verizon.net</a>
Bill Cashin	940-464-3068	<a href="mailto:billcashin@verizon.net">billcashin@verizon.net</a>
Gerald Frimann	903-813-1318	<a href="mailto:jerrfrim@verizon.net">jerrfrim@verizon.net</a>
Claude Graves	972-234-5184	<a href="mailto:claudegraves@att.net">claudegraves@att.net</a>
Nancy Grella	903-868-9811	<a href="mailto:nancygrella@verizon.net">nancygrella@verizon.net</a>
Kathy Harris	972-620-1131	<a href="mailto:kharris747@yahoo.com">kharris747@yahoo.com</a>
Jerry Haynes	210-601-1066	<a href="mailto:jhaynes@solbroadband.com">jhaynes@solbroadband.com</a>
Sandra Haynes	210-861-1066	<a href="mailto:shaynes@solbroadband.com">shaynes@solbroadband.com</a>
Carole Mainwaring	972-985-8316	<a href="mailto:cmainwak5@aol.com">cmainwak5@aol.com</a>

**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 checks made out to the River Red Rose