

THE
ROSE  **ELLE**

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Patsy Williams, Editor

April 2007

This Month's Meeting

Thursday
April 12, 2007

Don't Pass on the Bucks!
Gaye Hammond

7:30 pm
 Garden Center
 Hermann Park

Looking Ahead
Garden Tour April 21-22

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Happy Easter

Don't Pass on the Bucks!

Dr. Griffith Buck (1915-1991) is credited with creating more disease-resistant hardy roses than any other rose hybridizer in this country. Even though Dr. Buck's roses were especially created to survive the blistering cold winters (down to 28 degrees zero) of Iowa and the far northern states, we are finding that a large number of his roses do extremely well in our heat and humidity. The disease resistance and hardiness of Dr. Buck's roses have even attracted the attention of scientists at Texas A&M University and they are now studying 17 of Dr. Buck's roses in the National EarthKind trials funded by the Houston Rose Society.

While a couple of our members have grown Buck roses for many years most members have never experienced the beauty and grace that they bring to the landscape. With a few exceptions, most Buck roses are shrubs that bear fragrant blooms with hybrid tea form. In fact, it was the Dr. Buck that created the ARS classification of roses known as "shrubs". Our April meeting will showcase the work of Dr. Buck and the fabulous roses that he created.

Our speaker in April will be Gaye Hammond. Besides being our President, for several years Gaye has been working with Texas Cooperative Extension, Chamblee's Rose Nursery (Tyler) and local nurserymen to reintroduce and/or prevent Buck roses from being lost to commerce. She is an instructor for Texas Cooperative Extension in their EarthKind Rose Research Program and gives lectures throughout the country. In her spare time she is an avid writer, and her articles have received local, national and international publication.

Two special Buck roses will be given away as door prizes at the meeting.

Consulting Rosarian for April is Robin Hough. Bring your rose questions.

Grand Prix begins - Bring your best blooms and enter the competition.

Feature of the Month: Old Garden Rose Bouquet, 5 or more stems of one bloom or multiple blooms, in a container furnished by the exhibitor.

SPECIAL - 7:00 pm. Beginners' Guide to Fertilizing, by Donald Burger. Come early for a special presentation. This is a time for beginners to get questions answered.

HRS Rose Show CANCELED!

What Good Rosarians Are Doing in April

We finally got that much needed rain. Yes, it came all at once, but we will take what we can get. No amount of city water will have the same benefits as one rain.

FYI: If you ended the year with blackspot and began your spray program immediately after pruning, your roses might still have blackspot. At least the first two sets of leaves will develop blackspot even though the other leaves may be spray protected; this can be very upsetting. Remove the infected leaves and continue to spray; the new growth should be okay if you keep a regular spray program. Blackspot does not go away over winter, only the evidence.

Spray. Oh no, not that again!

Fungus protection should be foremost in our minds. A rose bush can be weakened by both blackspot and mildew. Prevention is by far the easier way to go. Trying to cure fungus after it occurs takes more effort. Roses, in the Gulf Coast area, should be sprayed every **7** days (time for most fungicides). When fungus is already present, spray every 5 days until the blackspot is under control, and then go back to your 7 day routine. **Funginex** is probably the most popular fungicide that is used for prevention. Add **Mancozeb** to **Funginex** to cure existing blackspot.

Aphids have manifested themselves in an overwhelming abundance. They bear live young, and sometimes it looks as though we haven't killed any of them. Any good insecticide will kill aphids. Keep ahead of them; they destroy your blooms and new foliage. Safer's Insecticidal Soap can be used, if you prefer an organic compound. Some rosarians keep aphids under control with a high pressure spray of water. And many rosarians opt for allowing beneficial insects to control aphids.



Beneficial Insects. The Ladybird Beetles (Lady Bugs) are also present at this time. Use good judgment when

spraying an insecticide; both beneficials and bad guys will be killed. There is no aphid-selective spray.



Spider Mites. These little devils always seem to be around. If you had them last year, there is no reason to believe that they went away. **Watch for them!** Lower leaves will look dry, lose color and begin to fall off. Spider mites work very fast. They can defoliate miniature roses in a few days. **CONTROL:** Washing the undersides of the leaves with a high-pressure spray of water is the safest practice. A Water-Wand (NOT a water breaker) with a long handle and high-pressure water, is the safest for you and the environment. A pistol-grip spray nozzle on the end of the water hose is also effective; the user just gets a little wetter. Wash the undersides of the leaves every other day for a week, and the life cycle of the mite will be disturbed so much that it cannot reproduce. Mites have to be on the plant to reproduce. **NOTE:** For larger yards or a severe infestation, a miticide can be used. AVID is very expensive, but it has proven to be the most effective.



Thrips never go away; they are always in my yard. Surely there must be some beneficial insect that can do a number on them. Until I find something that will work, my buds and blooms will be sprayed to insure clean blooms. Thrips are sandy-colored insects (very small) that bruise and discolor the petals of roses, causing the blooms to turn brown. Thrips can also cause the petals to stick together, preventing bloom opening. Pull a petal back, and look for these little pests scurrying around in the bloom. Remember: **spray buds and blooms** (thrips are only in the buds and blooms) with Orthene. Mix only what you anticipate using; **do not** save for later use. A hand sprayer (a spritzer bottle) may be used for selective spraying. A pump-up sprayer can also be used effectively; spray with less pressure, so that your spray can be directed more effectively. Don't lose those

beautiful blooms to thrips; **they bloomed for you!** Add a fungicide to your insecticide to help prevent the red specking on lighter colored blooms.

Fertilizing and Water. The amount of rainfall so far this year has fallen behind. Water is very essential for healthy plants. Two inches of water per week will provide sufficient water for your roses. Roses need a regular diet of fertilizer to keep them happy and growing to their fullest capabilities. A granular feeding should be applied every 4-6 weeks during the growing season. (It is the opinion of this writer that a granular fertilizer should be used at least in the spring and fall. Use your own choice of fertilizer in between granular feedings.) Alfalfa pellets @ 1 cup per bush and Epsom salt @ ¼ cup per bush, applied both in early spring and early fall, give roses a much-needed boost. A soluble fertilizer is used by many rosarians every two weeks. The choice is up to you, the rosarian, as to the type of fertilizer to use.

Spring Tonic. Many rosarians like to give their roses a “Spring tonic” or “dessert” in addition to the fertilizer which they have already applied. This tonic would be a soluble fertilizer such as--

- Carl Pool, Peters, Miracle-Gro, Maxi-bloom, HRS Fertilizer or Rapid-Gro (to name a few)
- And fish oil emulsion
- And chelated iron (Sprint 330)
- And Epsom salt (magnesium sulfate)
- Mixed with water and poured around each bush.

You can mix a gallon at the time, or use larger quantities; the results will be the same. The roses love it.

For those who want to give your roses even more, consider the alfalfa tea recipe below. You should use one or the other. Both are probably not needed (Spring Tonic or Alfalfa Tea).

“ALFALFA TEA”

10-12 Cups alfalfa pellets, or meal, in 32 gallons of water.

Optional additives:

- 1 cup Epsom salt
- 2 cups fish emulsion

- 2 cups iron (Sprint 330, iron chelate)

Combine water and alfalfa in a 32-gallon trash can. Cover, and let steep (like tea) for 3 days or longer, stirring occasionally. Before applying the solution to roses, add any or all of the optional items and stir. “Serve” 1 gallon of tea per large bush, or 1/3 gallon per mini. Follow the application with a little water. Refill the trash can with water, and use the same alfalfa to brew another batch. After the second batch of tea is “served,” pour the solid into your compost pile or on rose beds. **Beware** - it has a “barnyard” odor!

Growing a New Bush.

It is important to achieve good bush size during the first year. This does not mean that you should remove all the buds. Cut shorter stems with the flowers which you cut from a new bush to encourage the bush to achieve larger size.

Blind Shoots. A fluctuation of temperatures during the development of new growth is probably the greatest cause of blind shoots. We had plenty of such fluctuation during March, thus many blind shoots. These are short growths terminating without a bloom at the end. Removal of these allows vigor of the bush to go to more-productive leaves. Blinds can be identified by the stem tapering to a point, with no sign of a bud in the center, and by much shorter stems with closely-spaced leaves. If the stem grew to 6 to 8 inches in length before it became blind, cut the stem back to a five-leaflet leaf, and it will begin to grow again. Remove the whole stem if it is only 2-4 inches long.

Continue to **finger prune** to remove the unwanted growth from your plants. Multiple bud-eyes may emerge from one leaf axil. Only one should be allowed to mature. Remove, also, the eyes that are aimed in the wrong direction (toward the center of the plant, or on collision courses with other canes). This is very important especially if you are exhibiting roses or want long stems to take in the house.

Making blooms last. Bring your blooms into the house, and **recut them under water** to prevent an air bubble in the vascular system. Use warm water in the vase; this aids in the conditioning process of the bloom. Changing

the water every day or so also helps to keep the roses fresh. A little of the original yellow Listerine will disinfect as well as feed the blooms. It helps to prevent algae in the vase.

Cutting spent blooms, or “deadheading.”

After a flower has bloomed, the stem should be cut back above the second five-leaflet to encourage stronger stems. NOTE: A longer stem may be cut if you are bringing the bloom into the house or sharing with a friend. A good rule of thumb is: “Leave at least two sets of leaves on a stem, or else cut the stem back to the main cane.” A cane with less than two sets of leaves will not produce for you. The removal of spent-blooms encourages new growth.

Protect yourself from the sun’s rays.

The ozone layer is very thin and folks are getting more and more skin cancers, please use a sun block with a SPF 15 or higher. Rosarians are in the sun a lot, and you should really protect your skin. Any uncovered portion of your body is a target.

Grow your roses to the fullest.

You are in control of how your roses grow and produce. See to it that they have every opportunity to perform their very best for you. Feed, water, spray, cut spent-blooms, and the bushes will do the rest. Enjoy your roses.

Share your knowledge with a friend.

The best way to share your knowledge with a friend is to introduce them to the Houston Rose Society. Bring them with you to a meeting. Show them what the newsletter is all about. Maybe you could even give them a gift membership.

What are your favorite new roses?

Each year the rose growers flood the market with new roses. Are you trying any of them? Let us know how they are growing for you and what you like best about the different varieties.

Visit gardens that are on tour on April 21-22.

One of the highlights of being in the HRS is the Spring garden tour.



Visit our sponsors who give discounts with membership card or current newsletter.

HRS Sponsors Which Offer Discounts

Arbor Gate

15635 FM 2920 - Tomball, Texas 77377
(281) 351-8851

www.arbortgate.com

10% discount on rose related purchases

The Enchanted Forest

10611 FM 2759 - Richmond, Texas 77469
(281) 937-9449

www.visitourforest.com

10% discount on garden purchases

Nature's Way Resources

101 Sherbrook Circle, Conroe, Texas 77385
(936) 321- 6990 (Houston Metro)

www.natureswayresources.com

10% discount on soil, mulch, sand, etc.

RCW Nursery

15809 Highway 249 (at Beltway 8)
(281) 440-5161

10% Discount on Roses

San Jacinto Stone

195 Yale Street, Houston, Texas 77007
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10% discount on purchases

Smith & Hawken

3935 San Felipe
(713) 621-9395

10% discount on everything except furniture and sale merchandise

Southwest Fertilizer

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(713) 666 1744

10% discount on rose related products

Teas Nursery

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(713) 664-4400

15% discount on roses

The Vintage Rosery

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(979) 793-2888

www.vintagerosery.com

10% Discount on Roses and organic fertilizers

Wabash Antiques and Feed Store

5701 Washington Avenue
Houston, Texas 77007
(713) 863-8322

10% Discount on garden products



It Works Like This

by Baxter Williams, Master Rosarian

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To be the best at caring for our rose bushes it makes sense to understand just how our plants actually work. Fertilizers turn into plant, and flowers come – QED. Well, there is a little more to it than that. Let's look at the particulars. And let's do so in a non-technical manner.

Fertilizers furnish nutrients to the rose plants. Those nutrients come into the roots because of osmosis (that strange word that was such an enigma in our early years). Osmosis allows liquids, in this case the fertilizer, to enter a plant by liquid molecules soaking into the roots. *This only happens when the roots are drier than the soil.* Let me put that another way – **This happens when the soil is wetter than the roots.** When the soil is too dry, the bush begins to dry out and, guess what? The leaves drop off to prevent the death of the plant. The moral: **You must keep the leaves on the bush!**

If you think about the process enough you wonder how the liquid fertilizer is able to climb all of the way up to a leaf. Two phenomena take place; (1) the stems have small tubes (capillaries – Xylem) in their bark layers (cambium), causing a rise in the fluids due to capillary attraction, and (2) the leaves (all of the leaflets on leaf-stem - petiole) all have porous undersides (pores, called stoma), and breathe out moisture all of the time, thereby causing a *negative pressure* in the plant. That, by the way, is why re-cutting a stem under water makes a flower stay firm rather than wilt (the negative pressure in a fresh-cut stem draws in an air bubble, which continues to move up the stem until all begins to go limp). The combination of the capillary attraction and the negative pressure in the canes draws the nutrients into the leaflets.

Then that marvelous process of photosynthesis takes place, and the sunlight works on the chlorophyll in the leaflets, converting the nutrient fluids into the starches and sugars that are necessary to cause the growth of new stems and flowers and other plant parts. The plant is a food factory, converting the feedstock (nutrient-bearing fluids from the roots) into materials needed for growth and health. But it isn't over yet!

It doesn't stay in the leaflets. The starches and sugars move back down the plant and are deposited in the stems, becoming those new canes and buds. It flows down through other capillaries (called Phloem) in the cambium, again aided by the negative pressure caused by moisture escaping the pores under the leaflets.

These wonderful processes occur in almost all plants, at least in those that give us the pretty blooms in our gardens. Again, it makes sense for us to understand the processes and to assist them whenever we can.

Back in the first paragraph a couple of very important statements were made, and they need to be repeated.

- The soil must be wetter than the roots.
- The leaves must be kept on the bush.

None of this works unless these two things occur. For instance, dry soil weakens the bush by encouraging it to go dormant, even though the time of the season might be non-timely; and, in the worst case, will actually cause the plant to die. The plant will drop the leaves to arrest the problem, but the moisture level must be restored to prevent death.

And leaf-drop also weakens the plant, because the leaflets are the "stomachs" of the plant. Without them, everything comes to a halt until the plant replaces them with new ones; but the stored starches and sugars must be drawn from the plant to do this, losing some of its annual growth and healthiness.

Spray your rose bushes regularly with a fungicide, and keep them adequately watered in the hot summer months. You'll be glad you did.

Spray your rose bushes regularly with a fungicide, and keep them adequately watered in the hot summer months. You'll be glad you did.



2007 HRS SPRING GARDEN TOUR

This will be an afternoon to remember. Get an early start so that you won't miss any of the sights, and make sure that your camera has plenty of film (or memory chips), and plenty of battery charge. The flowers are a-bloom in our fair City, and you'll see plenty of them. The gardens listed below represent some of our finest, and the owners have done their best to show you what good blooms are all about.

A few suggestions: (1) Don't show up early - the Tour starts at Noon, not before. Don't stay late. Unless asked. Don't litter – pick up what you drop. Don't pluck anything. Don't ask to go inside. DO thank your hosts, and compliment their gardens. DO speak to others in the gardens. DO have a great time!

Baxter Williams, Tour Chair

SATURDAY April 21, 2007 Noon - 6:00 pm

1. Carol Anderson 8506 S. Braes View Ln Houston 77071 713-771-8544

This garden makes its debut on our annual Tour. Carol is a school teacher, and has a penchant for the Old Garden Roses. You will be able to see what a 60-bush garden can do, and how companion plants can embellish a garden. Ask her about which varieties do the best for her in the shady spots – you'll be amazed.

Directions: From US Hwy 59 S (outbound), take the S. Gessner Exit **and stay on the frontage road past Beechnut** to S. Gessner. Go left (south) to S. Braeswood (approx. 1.2 miles), left to first right on Braes Creek Drive, one block to right on S. Braes View Ln, to house on right. **From US Hwy 59 S inbound:** Take the Bissonnet Exit, turn right and travel eastbound until the street forks, and bear right onto S. Braeswood past S. Gessner to first right turn, right, then right onto S. Braes View Ln to house on right.

2. Earl and Deanna Krause 5020 Fairvent Pasadena 77505 281-487-3347

This large garden features an impressive collection of Old Garden Roses and many show roses of all styles. Earl and Deanna are Master Rosarians, and their fertilization program and water systems give rise to excellent photographic displays of their roses. Notice the Miniatures that have always been garden highlights of their experience.

Directions: From I-45 south: take Beltway 8 east (can use toll-free Frontage Rd) to Fairmont Parkway; left (west) to Lily St; left to Fairvent; left to house on right at cul-de-sac.

From Anderson - quick way: Return to S. Braeswood, left (westbound) past S. Gessner to Hwy 59. Go left on Hwy 59 to Beltway 8, and travel around Beltway 8 East past I-45 (Gulf Fwy), see above.

3. Baxter and Patsy Williams 2502 Leprechaun Ln Houston 77017 713-944-3437

This is a more-formal 600-bush garden, with a gazebo as a centerpiece. Most of the Williams' roses are growing on Fortuniana rootstock, and were grafted by Patsy. The Fortuniana mother-plant is covering a large arbor, across the face of the greenhouse, and its flowers hang down from the 70-foot oak tree above.

Directions: Take I-45 south to Monroe exit; left (east, becomes Winkler) across railroad (becomes S Richey) to Queens Road (3rd traffic light, Burger King); right (east) to Valley Forge (2nd street); right to Stop sign at Skylark; right to barricade; left to first house on right.

(From Krause: return to Fairmont Parkway; left (west) to Allen-Genoa Rd; right past Spencer Hwy to Queens Rd; left, and immediate left on either Shenandoah or Valley Forge to Skylark (stop sign); right (west) to barricade; left on Leprechaun Ln to first house on right.)

Sunday, April 22, 2007 Noon - 6:00 pm

4. James and Debbie Laperouse 13407 Lakecrest Dr. Cypress 77429 281-469-4056

James and Debbie's home rose garden features approximately 150 bushes, mainly hybrid teas and miniatures, with a few antique roses, all on a normal-size neighborhood lot. Ask James about the Hybrid Teas that were growing on *Dr. Huey* rootstock and have been replaced with new bushes grown on *Fortuniana*. A kidney-shaped bed is featured in the front yard, with miniatures around the mailbox. Raised rectangular-

shaped beds dominate the scene in the backyard, where roses and birds are viewed from the shady deck. Miniatures in pots round out the garden.

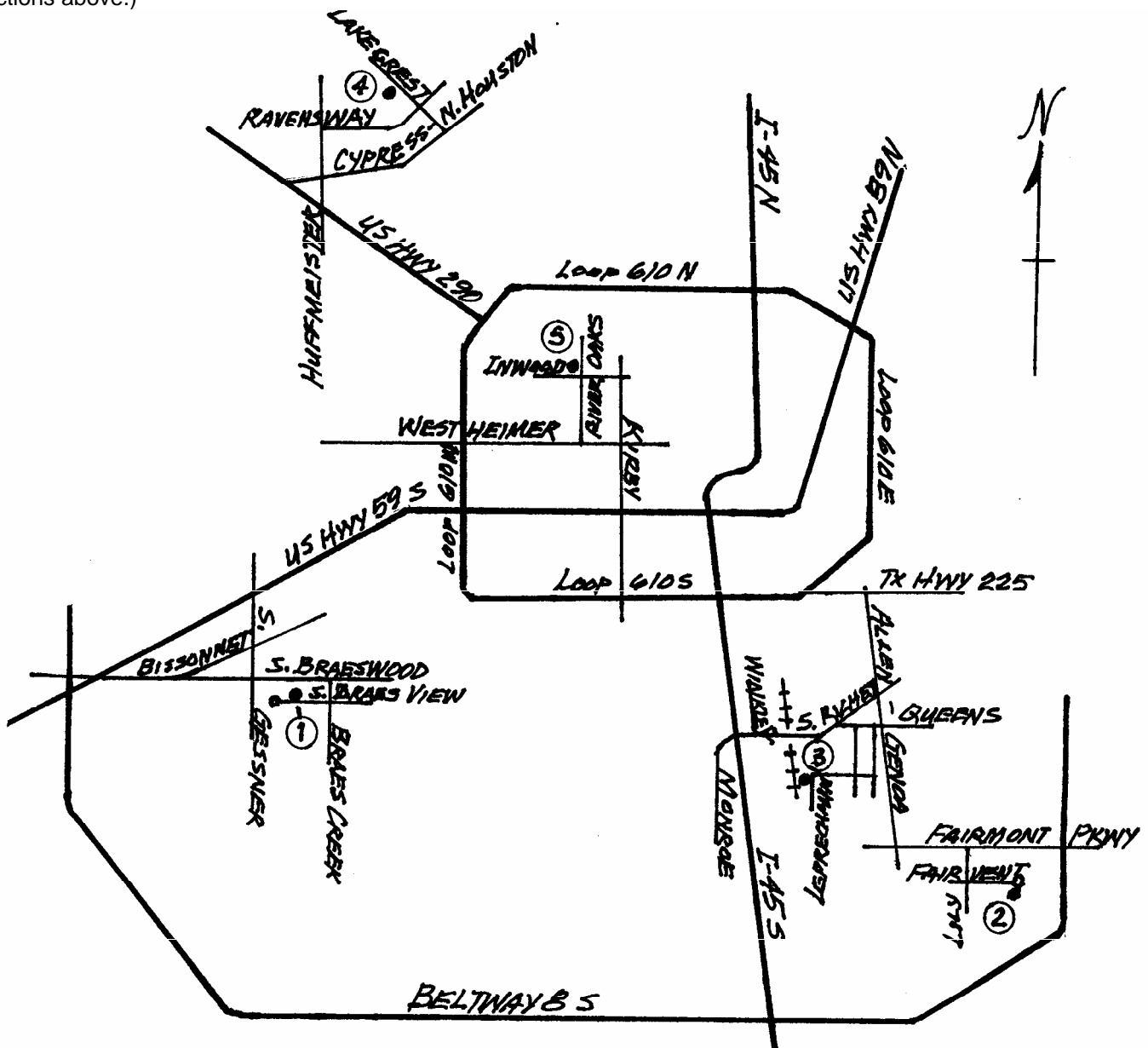
Directions: Take US Highway 290 (Austin) West to Huffmeister Rd.; right (north) past Cypress-North Houston Rd to Ravensway Dr.; right to Lakecrest Dr.; left to house on left.

5. Cherie and Jim Flores River Oaks Blvd at Inwood Dr Houston 77019 713-358-1620

This garden will again be the talk of the Society's Tour. Designed by McDugald-Steele Landscape Architects (the same company that provided the basic design for our new HRS garden in Shreveport, LA), this magnificent formal garden compliments a magnificent estate. Cherie's busy schedule doesn't allow her to spend full days with her roses, but she is very proficient with her Felco shears! You'll be able to stand on the expansive porch and take pictures of hundreds of beautiful roses. Imagine the joy derived from a stroll in this garden while collecting blooms for the dinner table.

Directions: From US 59 S. take Kirby northbound to Westheimer Rd, left (west) to River Oaks Blvd, right to Inwood Dr, left to first house on right.

(From Laperouse, return to US Hwy 290, inbound to Loop 610 South. Exit to US Hwy 59 North. Exit onto Kirby, follow directions above.)



Exhibiting for the Novice

by Baxter Williams

After growing roses for a while, you will notice that all of the horticulture has extrapolated itself into making *roses that are capable of winning a rose show*. So, those roses that have been providing your garden with beautiful color are probably ready to "see the inside of a rose show," aren't they? Be aware that looking at a rose on a show table is no different than looking at one on the dining table at home, provided you understand that an emphasis on perfection is found at the show.

Preparation for your first entry at a rose show starts in the garden. There are a few principles that should be considered at the outset:

- If the rose looks good to you on the bush, it will look good on the show table, too.
- It is the judges' problem to choose the best entries; it is the grower's obligation to provide the judges with a morning's work.
- Well-grown roses always do better in the judging than do others.
- An un-entered rose collects no trophy.
- The early bird gets the worm, which simply means that, if you arrive at the show just before entry time is over, you will have neither a convenient preparation area nor time to prepare and enter all of your blooms. The other adage, that it is always best to not be the first worm, is not true at rose shows.
- It does no good to look at other exhibitors' entries.
- Cut more stem than you will need.
- Don't depend on anyone else to bring needed items, except vases, to the show for you.
- A well-stocked prep box has all of these items:
 - Soft cloths
 - Small, soft paintbrush
 - Shears
 - Fingernail scissors
 - "Deco" (serrated) shears
 - Tweezers
 - Rubber bands
 - Exacto knife(s)
 - Propping material (aluminum foil, styrofoam, or clear plastic film)
 - Pencils
 - Extra Entry Tags, with your name(s) already on them
 - Q-Tips
 - A "Handbook for Selecting Roses"
- Register *first* by filling out the entry envelope.

- Get a Show Schedule ahead of the show date, *and read it ahead of time*.
- With your flashlight and shears in hand, check the bushes one more time before leaving the garden.
- If possible, polish the foliage the night before, and before refrigerating them.

Cut your entries either in the late evening or in the early morning. Re-cut their stems *under water*, and place them into containers having warm water. After they have achieved room temperature, polish the leaves before putting them into the refrigerator; they are much more difficult to polish when they are moist with condensate after having been removed from storage.

If you cut additional blooms for use in the rose sale, keep them separate from the show blooms. More of them can be stored in the same bucket, whereas jamming show blooms together too tightly can cause foliage damage, causing show blooms to get less consideration by the judges.

It makes a lot of sense to fill out entry tags the night before, because there will be more than enough to do on show day without having to spend precious time writing on entry tags.

Upon arrival at the show prep area, find a suitable prep table, and accumulate a sufficient quantity of vases thereto. Then, *immediately* fill out an entry form (envelope). Carefully lift the potential entries from your container, and put them into vases. It is a good idea to put all of those of the same variety in close proximity on the prep table, so that obviously-inferior blooms can be put into the "sale bucket" right away. Return unused vases to the common area, so that other exhibitors can use them. If you must talk to other exhibitors, make it short, just a "Good morning," or some other pleasantry; they will be more receptive to conversation *after* the entry period has ended.

Once an entry is ready, either take it to the entry table, or place it in a holding area on your prep table, to give more room for work other blooms. Be sure that there is a completed Entry Tag on each one. Take them to the entry table in batches, rather than individually, to save time.

Examine each entry for the obvious disqualification problems: misnamed, misclassified, misplaced, unlabeled or mislabeled, stem-on-stem, foreign substance (cotton balls, etc.), and not-disbudded. Remove the problem; don't be disqualified. Keep track of what you have entered; it is a disqualification of the show rules to enter more than one entry of the same variety in the same class.

Then turn your attention to the problems that would cause your entry to receive a lower evaluation by the judges, such as -

- Un-polished leaflets
- Un-removed "guard petals"
- Un-groomed, or torn, leaflets
- Poorly done side growth removal
- "Balance and Proportion," issues with regard to the length of the stem above the vase
- Poorly propped entries that lean, instead of being erect.

Use the soft cloths in your prep kit to polish away any remaining fungicide on the leaflets. Leftover fungicide is a real distraction to any discerning judge, *and you don't want to do that!*

Guard petals are those smallish petals that sometimes are wrinkled or are color-faulted, and that are at the base of the flowers. They should be removed, and can be easily twisted sideways between your thumb and index finger to do so.

Torn, or blackspotted, or leaf cutter bee damaged leaflets should be either groomed to a more leaf-like shape, or removed altogether. The "Deco shears" in the prep kit have serrated blades, which make ragged edges look much better after being cut. Try to cut the edges into the same basic shape of a normal, yet smaller, leaflet, even if it means cutting away part of the leaflet that isn't damaged. If the leaflet is badly damaged, it might be necessary to remove it entirely. If so, then use your fingernail scissors to take it off all the way down to the next leaflet or petiole (little stem piece between leaflets); sometimes *no* leaflet is better than a badly-torn one.

It is highly recommended that any disbudding of an entry be reviewed just prior to taking it to the entry table. Scars, particularly those that were done soon enough to show darkening by time for entries to cease, need attention. Carefully scraping the blackened area with your Exacto knife will usually expose the green cambium underneath. If a stem piece or bud is still attached, the Exacto knife will make short shrift of such. Don't leave anything

sticking up, particularly down in the middle of a floribunda bloom head.

The amount of stem above the top of the vase should be approximately equal to three-and-one-half times the width of the bloom, assuming a single-bloom entry. Prop the entry high, if the stem is short; or put it all the way down into the vase, if the stem is long (I wish all of mine were *that* kind!), even cutting off some more of the stem, if required.

A leaning stem is very distracting to the judges. Being very careful to check the Show Schedule for what is allowed in the way of propping materials, add and adjust your entry to get it into the most erect position in its vase. Again, *don't depend on others to bring enough propping material to be able to loan some to you; bring your own stuff!*

Aluminum foil has more structural strength than does plastic wrapping material, so it is a good idea to have some it in your prep kit at all times. *Note:* it is not necessary to use only one kind of propping material, *if* there is no restriction called out in the show rules; although it makes sense to use only one kind in an individual entry.

When all of your entries are put into the show, *clean up your own prep table.* And other tables, too, if you have time on your hands before other show activities claim your efforts. Your willingness to assist the show committee will encourage others to likewise, particularly if you ask them to help you in the project

Finally, enjoy the experience. Your participation in the show has many benefits: your garden will have received extra care, and the plants will therefore be healthier; the judges will be satisfied in having accomplished their task; the Show Committee will beam; and your newly-acquired ribbons and trophies will provide you with enormous gratification. *Just do it!* I'll see you on the show table.



Society Potpourri

LAST MONTH'S MEETING

A special Thank You to Sandra Smith for an excellent program about her start in roses and her trip to New Orleans to carry plants to help Katrina victims. (See article on our web page www.houstonrose.org)

Thanks to our cookie angels: Ruth Leddy, Shirley Morgan, Gaye Hammond and Deanna Krause. No meeting would be complete without our volunteers that bring goodies.

Receiving the Newsletter electronically

March was the first month that the *Rose-Ette* was sent electronically to those who indicated on their renewal forms that they preferred to receive it by email. The same group will be receiving it electronically again this month. If you would like to receive it that way you should notify Baxter Williams at baxpat@wave3online.com .

The Grand Prix begins this month.

Bring your best bloom and enter them in the competition. You are allowed to enter up to 10 blooms. Only one of a variety may be entered in a given class.

We will NOT be having a rose show this spring due to the parking situation at the Garden Center. The park fills up fast and we could not be guaranteed that we would be able to park at the Center. We will be looking for an alternative location for next spring.

FYI

Robin Hough's *Camden* scored high in the Roses In Review. Congratulations, Robin.

HRS Events Calendar

Mark your calendar - updates made monthly

- Apr 12** ▪HRS Meeting - Buck Roses
Garden Center, Hermann Park
 - Apr 21** ▪Spring Bloom - American Rose Center -
Shreveport, LA
 - Apr 21** ▪San Antonio Rose Show
 - Apr 21-22** ▪Spring Rose Tour
 - Apr 28** ▪Golden Triangle Rose Show
 - Apr 28-29** ▪Chamblee's Rose Adventure
- 2007 HRS Officers**

President	Gaye Hammond	281-458-6116
VP Show	Dan Lawlor	281-343-9422
VP Programs	Deanna Krause	281-487-3347
VP Member.	John Jons	281-486-7659
Secretary	Shirley Morgan	713-463-6719
Treasurer	Galt Morgan	713-463-6719
Editor	Patsy Williams	713-944-3437
Past Pres.	Donald Burger	713-861-5412
Parl.	James Laperouse	281-469-4056
Director	Robin Hough	281-482-8944
Director	Baxter Williams	713-944-3437

The Antique Rose Emporium is having Children's Day on Saturday 4/7/07 with an Easter Egg Hunt at 11:00 am and then Gaye Hammond will give a program for children on cultivating ladybugs, complete with the children doing a ladybug release at noon. HRS will also have a membership booth that day and be available to answer questions. All events are free, and interested members may contact 979-836-5548 for more information.

WOW - What a Month!

This past month has been a very busy one for our Society. Our presence at the Galveston Home & Garden Show, Houston Home & Garden Show, the Arbor Gate Rose Festival, nursery assistance days at Martha's Bloomers (Navasota) and Teas Nursery (Bellaire), and programs to the Galveston Master Gardeners Association and the Brookwood Community (Brookshire) have drawn many new members to our group. A warm welcome goes out to Claudia Grafton, Roney & Patricia McCrary, Mary Martino, Travis Bolin, Terri Shell, Lisa Barker, Scarlett Graves, John & Suzanne Rohrer, Luci & Everett Thompson, Marge & Don Trexler, Barbara Setchfield, Janice Clements, Val & Joe Arbona, Peter & Susan Allen, Debbie & Rob Schmitz, Linda Dill, T J Holloway-Anderson, Kenneth & Cathy Cram, Debbie & Norman Frank, Jr, Mantie Terry, William & Reba Watson, Amie Chaney, Manning & Franka Correla, Kate Lawn, Martin & Michele Houk, Courtney McCure, Joan Brasher, Mark & Jess Meadows, John Wohltman & Veronica Sanchez, Don & Jeanine Babb, Sonia Bernard, Ed & Judy Canche, Dallas & Alice Coate, Sabrina Farina, Shannon, Bill & Audrey Fossier, Patricia Gregory & Bridget Reeves, David Hokanson & Debbie Schultz, Robert & Winn Lee, Fred & Sandra Lettieri, Clair Ludwig, Madeline Peck, Roxanna Seery, Henry & Janna Bertholf, Zana Blakely, Richard & Pat Ceritelli, Chris & Tina Jones, Hans & Ginny Kolb, C Z & Monica Krause, Linda Ohia, Mike & Kim Patrick, Karen Darcy Pawlak, Ed & Pauline Sheinberg, Lew & D D Skaug, Meriel Sweet, Steve & Connie Valerius, and Kathleen & Jim White.

We couldn't have done all this without the help of some really special people. A big "THANK YOU" to John Jons, James & Debbie Laperouse, Baxter & Patsy Williams, Earl Krause, Mary Whitaker, Galt & Shirley Morgan, Gaye Hammond, Nora Wolff, Susan Kelly, Mary Bahn, Robin Hough, Dan & Patti Lawlor, Donald Burger, Maria Trevino and Eileen McGovern-Hanks for all their hard work this last month on projects benefiting our community and our Society.

A REAL SPECIAL commendation is in order for Galt & Shirley Morgan and John Jons. These three were invited by Texas Cooperative Extension to deliver programs at three Cornelius Nurseries in Harris County on Saturday, March 10th. After the programs, we learned that Galt, Shirley and John were part of the largest simultaneous educational effort ever undertaken by Texas Cooperative Extension. A total of 23 Callows/Cornelius Nurseries throughout Texas offered their customers free education on EarthKind Roses. Thanks as well to Cornelius Nurseries for being such excellent hosts and making this opportunity available.

Southern Living Magazine Recognizes HRS Supporters

We've known for a long time that the Society has some of the best supporters in the nursery industry, but it's nice to know that our nursery friends are finally getting the recognition they deserve for providing excellent service and plant materials to their customers. *Southern Living Magazine* has named four of our nursery sponsors as the "Top Ten Favorite Garden Centers" in Texas.

The winners are:

- Teas Nursery (713-664-4400),
- Martha's Bloomers (Navasota, 936-870-4111),
- Buchanan's Native Plants (713-861-5702),
- The Arbor Gate (Tomball, 281-351-8851).

When you think of how many nurseries and gardens centers there are in Texas, it is a great honor to have been selected to be among the top ten. Our congratulations go to John Teas, Stewart Thompson, Donna Buchanan, Beverly Welch and their fine staffs for receiving this recognition as well as our thanks for making their nurseries such a pleasant place to shop.

**Mea Culpas and Thank-yous
from The Fall Rose Festival**
Patti Lawlor, Volunteer coordinator

By now, the memories of the fantastic fall 2006 Rose Festival at the Texas Home and Garden Show have probably faded for most of you, but for me, the lack of appreciation to our volunteers hounds me regularly! I missed the December newsletter deadline because of ankle surgery, missed the January newsletter deadline because of the holidays, missed the February deadline because of...no good excuse. So I was determined to get this out before the next rose show.

Our partnership with the Texas Home and Garden show required more than the usual amount of volunteer time, and boy did you come through. Thanks go out to the following volunteers (in no particular order) for the time, effort and enthusiasm they brought to the HRS booth that weekend: Nora Wolff, Susan Kelly, Galt and Shirley Morgan, Baxter and Patsy Williams, Terri Dolney, Earl and Deanna Krause, Gaye Hammond, Donald Burger and Maria Trevino, Ella Tyler, Mary Bahn, Mark and Erin Adams, John Jons, James and Debbie Laperouse, Al Vahlkamp, Mary Rains, Charles and Darlene Ham, Katie Hartzog, Susan Smith, Glenda Duckett, Paulette Hamrick, Liz Duhon, Theresa Andersen and Jim Boden, Mary Fulgham and Randy Keen, Delbert Ponds, Robin Hough, Jeniver Lauren, Linda Shirley, and William Groth. Once again Earl Krause graciously picked up and delivered the show trailer, for which we are especially grateful! Special thanks go out to Delbert Ponds, who quietly and methodically watered the show entries, emptied extra show supplies and stacked boxes, which made packing up the trailer smooth as silk. Also another special thanks go to Randy Keen who volunteered to take the trailer back to the storage facility. Without his help, it might still be sitting at the Reliant Center!

Thanks again to everyone for your help. If I omitted someone, please let me know so they can be recognized. Hope to see you at the next Houston Rose Society meeting.



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Next Meeting April 12th

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HRS web address: <http://www.houstonrose.org>

♥ ♥ Editor - **THE ROSE-ETTE** ♥ ♥
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THE HOUSTON ROSE SOCIETY is a non-profit educational organization affiliated with The American Rose Society and dedicated to the cultivation of roses in the Houston area.

MEMBERSHIP is **\$15.00 per calendar year**, January thru December. Mail membership dues to:

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2502 Leprechaun Lane
Houston, TX 77017-7320
Phone 713-944-3437

baxpat@wave3online.com

NOTE:

Send address changes to this address.
HRS mails bulk-rate and **it is NOT forwarded.**

 **Call a Consulting Rosarian**

These Rosarians welcome your rose questions.

Donald Burger / Maria Trevino	Heights	713-861-5412
Denise Cope	SW	713-771-4841
Elisabeth Duhon	NW	713-855-8447
David Eoff	Con	936-760-4081
♦ Mary Fulgham / Randy Keen	Bel	713-668-4054
William Groth	SW	713-728-1854
Gaye Hammond	NE	281-458-6116
♦ Robin Hough	SE	281-482-8944
John Jons	SE	281-486-7659
Robin Kohler	W	713-935-0329
♦ Earl / ♦ Deanna Krause	SE	281-487-3347
Jeniver Luran	S	713-433-2524
Doug Mitchell	S	281-992-9167
John Patterson	Bry/CS	979-852-9630
Gale Pierce	NW	281-890-7341
Mary Walker	Bel	713-665-5073
♦ Baxter / ♦ Patsy Williams	S	713-944-3437

♦ Master Rosarians

Randall's Remarkable Card for HRS, # 5928