

THE

ROSE ELLE



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Vol. XLVII, No. 4

Patsy Williams, Editor

April 2010

This Month's Meeting

Thursday
April 8, 2010

IPM
Mary Fulgham

7:30 pm
Garden Center
Hermann Park

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HAPPY EASTER

Integrated Pest Management

Mary Fulgham, Chairman of Houston Rose Society's Consulting Rosarian Program, will present a program on ***Integrated Pest Management***, which is comprised of four methods: cultural, physical, biological, and chemical. Mary and her husband have been growing roses in Bellaire for over 20 years. Mary has published numerous articles on rose growing, as well as having presented many lectures in the Houston area. Mary has both Bachelor of Music (1973) and Master of Music (1976) degrees from the University of Houston. She performs with the Houston Grand Opera, the Joffrey Ballet, and the Houston Ballet Orchestras. She is also an adjunct professor of music at Houston Baptist University. Mary will provide us with information about all of the creatures in our rose gardens, and how to tell the good bugs from the bad guys. You will find this meeting very informative, with great photos of different bugs and diseases that can attack your roses!

Consulting Rosarian for April is Mary Fulgham. Bring your roses questions.

The Grand Prix begins this month. Bring your best roses, and enter the competition. Points are accumulated from April through November, and the winners are acknowledged with a prize at our Holiday Party in December.

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, Beginner's Corner will feature **ROSES ROCK**, which is a program designed just for kids, and features Ivy Keen, a student from Bellaire. Ivy's program demonstrates how children can create their own roses. Each child that attends will experience a fun program and will receive a special gift. And this month's program will be presented by Mary Fulgham, Ivy's mother.

What Good Rosarians Are Doing in April

What a joy it is to see the beautiful growth on our roses. They are no longer just bare sticks. Buds growing larger every day. It won't be long before we will have beautiful roses to enjoy and to share with others.

A preventive spray program should have been put into effect at pruning time. By spraying both a preventive and a curative mixed together, and spraying for five times, blackspot should now be under control. With bushes free of spot, you can drop the curative and spray only the preventive. There are fungicides that must be sprayed every seven days (Ortho Rose Pride Disease Control with Funginex, Fertilome/with Banner (propiconazole), and others). There are also sprays that can be sprayed every fourteen days (Honor Guard and Compass). The sprays that last for fourteen days might offend your pocketbook especially if you have a small garden, but they are more concentrated, and you use fewer products per spraying, and you only have to spray half as many times per year. You do the math, If cost appears prohibitive, maybe you and a friend could share.

Aphids are already here. Your best and most economical method of control is to spray your plant with a strong spray of water. This is the most economical method of control. Many of the aphids will be knocked off the bush.

Lady bugs are your best friends. They will come when there is a food source for them. In our garden, very little insecticide is used. Lady bugs come every year and feast on aphids. We have some lady bugs now, and they are multiplying. Soon there will be no aphids. The ball is in your court – to spray insecticides, or take care of the problem otherwise.

It is important that you keep the soil moist, not wet. Roses do not like wet feet. The roots can rot when the soil is too wet.

A good layer of mulch will help to retain moisture, keep rose roots cool during the summer, make it easier to pull weeds, should they occur, and makes the rose bed look well dressed.

Roses are big eaters. They like to be fed regularly. A granular fertilizer should be applied every four to six weeks by scratching into the soil. A soluble fertilizer like the *HRS* can be applied to the soil every two weeks. Personally, I like to apply a granular fertilizer in the spring and again for the fall feeding in September. A soluble fertilizer should not be sprayed on the plant; you will burn the foliage if you do. Many containers will say that you can spray fertilizer on the foliage, but take my advice and DO NOT spray the foliage. Don't forget to add a few organics to the rose bed. During the hot summer months, use about half of a normal application. Plants struggle to perform in the summer. Blooms are smaller during the heat and require less food. Nothing that you do or don't do will change the size of the blooms.



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 and Floramite are very expensive, but have proven to be 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 (active ingredient - acephate). Orthene is hard to find. Look for something with acephate in it, or try whatever you have on hand. 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.

Blind Shoots. The 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 more toward real production. They 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 into the house. If growing for garden color, omit finger pruning.

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.

Grand Prix Begins this Month

Bring your best blooms.

- Grand Prix runs April through November, except July, unless notified otherwise.
- Select your blooms for freshness; choose roses one-half or more open for non-spray specimens (no buds). If in doubt, bring them anyway.
- Cut your stems as long as possible; leave the foliage on the stems.
- Label each variety correctly (to avoid disqualification, and to assure only one variety is entered per class).
- Transport your stems in a container with a little water, or wrap a wet paper towel around base of the stem. Get them here whichever way is convenient for you.
- Assistants will be available to help you with the prep and the paper work.
- Your roses have to be entered by 7:30 pm. Doors will be open at 6:30 pm. Please don't show up just 5 or 10 minutes before meeting time and then expect to enter. Be sure to arrive in plenty of time to get help with the procedures.

Select, cut, label, transport, and show up! We look forward to seeing you all.

Visit the gardens on Tour on April 18th.

One of the highlights of being in the HRS is the Spring Garden Tour. Plan to visit as many of the gardens as you can. Bring a friend and enjoy the roses. Invite all your friends. Tour information may be found on our web site at www.houstonrose.org, as well as in this newsletter.



Rose of the Month

Tournament of Roses

by Robin Hough

This month's pick, *Tournament of Roses*, is classified as a grandiflora rose. Grandiflora is a small class of roses that began with *Queen Elizabeth*, introduced in 1954. Grandifloras are a cross between hybrid teas and floribundas. They are generally taller than floribundas, and have larger blooms. They do bloom mainly in clusters like floribundas, and their blooms are mostly fully double.

Tournament of Roses was hybridized by Bill Warriner and introduced in 1988. It is a cross between *Impatient* (an orange floribunda) and a seedling, and was named as an AARS winner for 1989. Its color class is "pink blend." It varies from a light rose to a salmon pink with a darker smoky shade on the reverse of the petals. I really love the darker reverse. Usually when the reverse of a rose is different, it will be lighter in color, so the darker reverse gives *Tournament of Roses* a special look.



The name was given to honor the 100th anniversary of the famous Rose Parade in Pasadena, CA, which is held on New Years Day each year. *Roses in Review* gives this rose a rating of 8.2; I personally would give it an 8.7. It shows fairly good disease resistance and has beautiful glossy, dark green foliage. The blooms have exhibition form and have 25 to 30 petals. One spray of blooms in a vase makes a major statement.

You can add *Tournament of Roses* to that list of roses I couldn't be without!

HRS Rose Show - April 17th

South Main Baptist Church, Pasadena, TX
4300 Beltway 8, Pasadena

We are looking for each of you to participate either by bringing roses to show or volunteering to help in some way. Call Dan Lawlor, Show Chairman, at 281-343-9422 and let him know that you are available to help. He can tell you how you can help. We always have beautiful roses, so you might like to bring a pad and pen to write down some of the names that you really like.

If you are new to exhibiting, the information on pages 3 & 7 will be helpful to you for both the Grand Prix as well as April 17th.

NOTICE: Since our weather has been a little unpredictable this year, please visit our website for the latest information regarding the show. The Show Schedule will be posted there.

In the event that the show should have to be cancelled, the website will have information to that effect. Check www.houstonrose.org before you leave home.

Houston Rose Society 2010 Garden Tours

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.

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!

NOTE: Gardens do not have to be visited in the order in which they appear on this list.

Sunday, April 18th, 12:00 pm until 6:00 pm

1. Carolyn Plant 3009 Dow Circle, Deer Park 281-479-3987

Drive up to this beautiful Victorian house with columns and white picket fences. There are annuals, climbing roses on arbors, Ragu Creeper on the pergola, and 80 rose bushes that keep this well-groomed yard in constant color and a pleasure to visit again.

Directions: Take Loop 610 to Texas Hwy 225, east to Center Street, right (south, 1.8 mi.) to East "P" Street, left one block to Dow Circle, right to 3rd house on left.

2. Bill and Joan Groth 4415 Meyerwood Drive, Houston 713-728-1854

Bill and Joan moved to their present home 2 years ago. The yard is about half the size of their previous yard, and is fast filling up with Old Garden Roses. Bill is an OGR enthusiast, and is one of our American Rose Society Consulting Rosarians.

Directions: From W Loop 610 south, exit to N Braeswood; left (east) to Greenwillow, right (south) to Meyerwood, right to house on left. From westbound on S Loop 610, take S. Braeswood Exit, immediate right onto Cliffwood, north 2 blocks to Meyerwood, right to house on right.

From Plant: Return to TX 225, left (west) to Loop 610, west on S. Loop 610 to S. Braeswood Exit, immediate right onto Cliffwood, north 2 blocks to Meyerwood, right to house on right.

3. David and Renee Cummins 2 W 11th Place, Houston 713-524-2332

David and Renee's 1939 home is located in the West Eleventh Place Historic District and is listed in the National Register. Renee is very excited about gardening, and it shows in the beautifully designed walled garden covered with climbing roses. Antique roses are favorites, with a few shrub roses added for their beauty. Perennials and bulbs add to the riot of color. Wish we could all have her potting shed!

Directions: Directions: From US Hwy 59, go south on Main or Fannin to Binz/Bissonnet, right across Montrose to W 11th, left to first house on right. **Note: Valets will park your car,** and return it to you after you have visited the garden.

From Groth: Return to Greenwillow, right to S Loop 610, left (eastbound) to TX 288, north to Calumet-Binz, left on Binz, which becomes Bissonnet, past Montrose to second street, left to first house on right.

4. Bert and Wanda Williams 10 Wincrest Falls Drive, Cypress 281-370-7468

Our garden consists of a large mostly hybrid tea bed with a few mini florals, and a smaller bed of minis and a couple of The Dark Lady's which my husband started from an old bush. There is a bed of Old English Roses near the lake. Bert and Wanda visited, and ordered from, Heirloom Roses in Wilsonville, OR, all of which are own-root roses. There is a new bed near the lake, which is called "the red bed". Knock Outs and Home Runs are in several beds near the house, as well as several other shrub roses around crepe myrtles, etc. Their 100+ azaleas should be blooming.

Directions: From US Hwy 290, exit northbound onto Huffmeister Rd, right onto Kluge Rd (becomes Malcomson), left onto Grant Rd, right onto Louetta to Wincrest Court, right to Wincrest Falls Dr, left to house on right. This is a gated community, but the gate will be open for the duration of the Garden Tour.

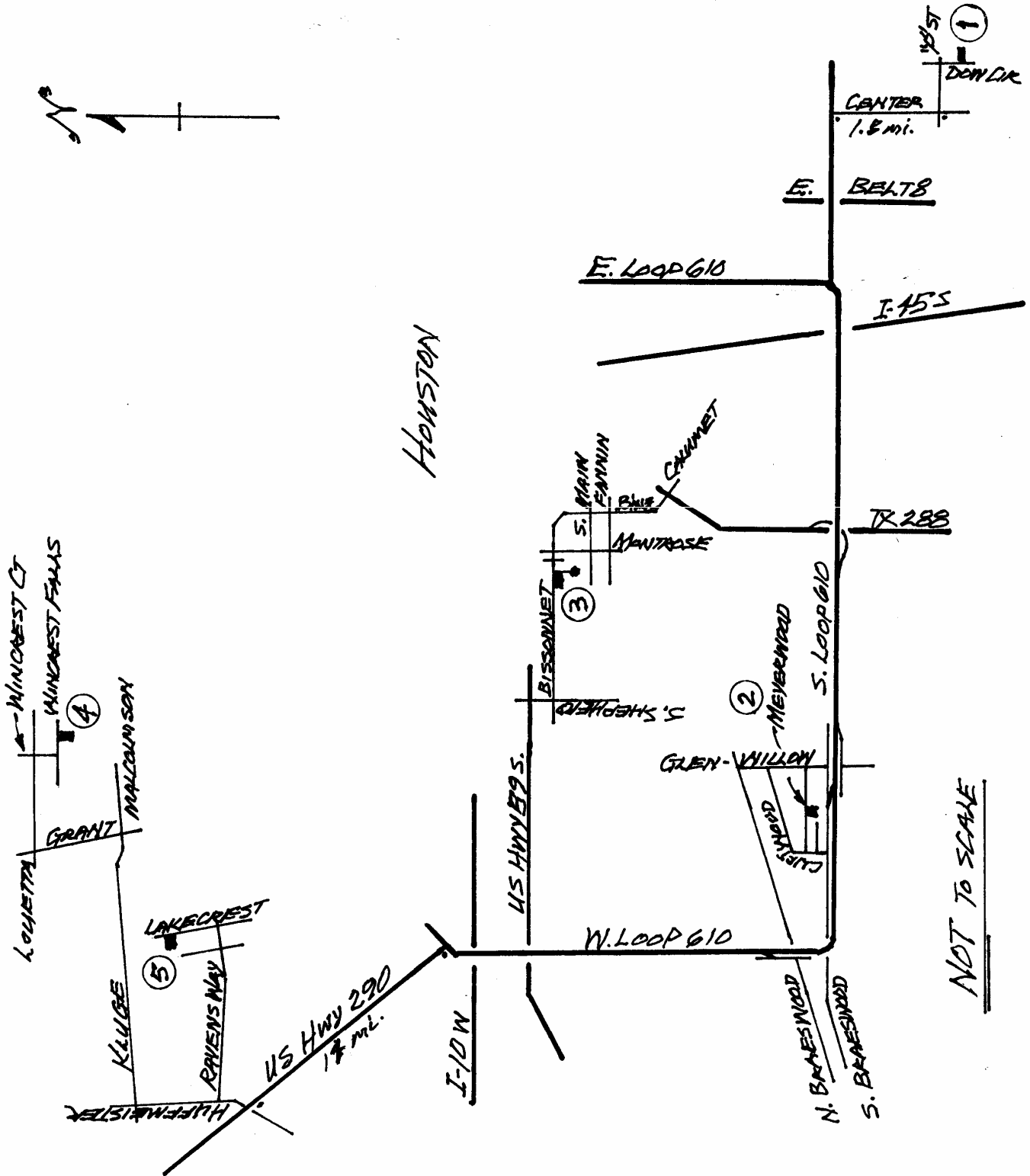
From Cummings: West on Bissonnet to Shepherd, right to Hwy 59, left (westbound) to Loop 610, right (north) to Hwy 290, Hwy 290 North to Huffmeister (approx. 14 miles), see above.

5. James and Debbie Laperouse 13407 Lakecrest Dr, Cypress 281-469-4056

Not the first time on our Spring Garden Tour, this garden features beautiful Hybrid Teas as well as Miniatures and Minifloras. James is an American Rose Society Consulting Rosarian, and he and Debbie are consistent winners in our monthly Grand Prix competition using all of their varieties.

Directions: From US Hwy 290, exit northbound onto Huffmeister Rd, right on Ravens Way to Lakecrest Rd, left to house on left. From Williams: Return to Huffmeister, left (south) to Ravens Way, left to Lakecrest Rd, left to house on left.

Garden Tour Map / Sunday April 18, 2010



Rose Exhibiting by “Non-Exhibitors”

by Baxter Williams

If you've never entered a rose show for judging, it's probably because the thought of having an entry rejected would be a real embarrassment. Well, I have good news for you: Starting is easier than ever. Here are the elements.

Well-grown Roses. They are started by being fed, and watered, and trimmed, and kept pest-free. Adequate nourishment is enhanced when the pH of the soil is in the 6.5-7.0 range, and when fertilizer additions include needed trace elements. It is probably time to invest in a soil test.

And if you have been using only natural fertilizers (manures, “meals”, composts, etc.), remember that they are “naturally” weak, compared to manufactured fertilizers, so they need to be applied **very** early in the first bloom cycle. And, just as an experiment, you might try using our Houston Rose Society Rose Fertilizer during this first bloom cycle – it is an “instant “ product that can act in time to affect (size, color, stem and foliage) these first blooms.

Selection of Blooms. The judging of a rose show actually begins before the blooms are entered. It begins as you first look at the bloom-stems for the purpose of cutting them from the bushes. **You** make the judging call as to whether to cut them and take them to the show for entry – the judges only confirm your choices.

In all honesty, bloom selection is not all that difficult. Just cut long stems having good foliage and with large blooms on top. And then, holding them under water, re-cut them (so that they won't droop because of the air bubble sucked into the stems as they were cut off of the bushes).

Bloom Preparation. Bloom prep is a 2-stage process. The first stage has already been mentioned: re-cut the stems underwater, and then store them in the refrigerator at about 36

deg F. The second stage is a little more detailed.

Once put into vases at a rose show, it is time to tag the blooms. Hint: Valuable time is preserved when the tags are prepared the night before the show. Be careful to fill in all of the appropriate blanks on both halves (upper and lower) of the entry tags! Secondly, if necessary, bloom petals can be gently manipulated to arrange them into a more-concentric pattern. Thirdly, gently wipe the leaflets with a soft cloth to give them a shiny look (Note: You must not use any additive to cause the shine).

A few “tools” come in handy in the prep area. Bypass pruning shears. Small grooming (fingernail) shears, to trim away any damaged leaflet edges. Tweezers. A small paint brush, for petal manipulation. A pencil, or two. A sharp penknife (or Exacto knife set). A square foot (or 2) of aluminum foil wrap. Rubber bands. A recent edition of the American Rose Society “Handbook for Selecting Roses.” And a copy of the Show Schedule.

And a smidgeon of gutsy resolve. C'mon; we can do this! Besides, the judges really do need something to do. Let's load 'em up. See you at the Show.



Sweet Vivien



HRS Library Corner

by Maria Trevino

Well-known rose historian Stephen Scanniello teams up with Tania Bayard to give a thorough history of sixty-five of the most popular and important climbers throughout history in the book Climbing Roses.

After a brief introduction on the evolution of climbers, the authors devote the next 194 pages to the sixty-five chosen climbers. This averages out to over three pages per climber. There is a beautiful color picture of each of the sixty-five roses in full bloom. The authors are thorough in tracing the history of each climber, including its parents, and how it was introduced into commerce both in Europe and the United States. Historical sources include plant patents and early nursery descriptions.

The roses are discussed from the oldest climber to the newest ones. Often, especially in the case of roses from the 1800's, a particular rose will be known by different names in England, France and the United States. Often the information presented is esoteric, but if you grow the rose or are considering adding it to your garden, such facts are fascinating.

Some of the climbers covered in the book include:

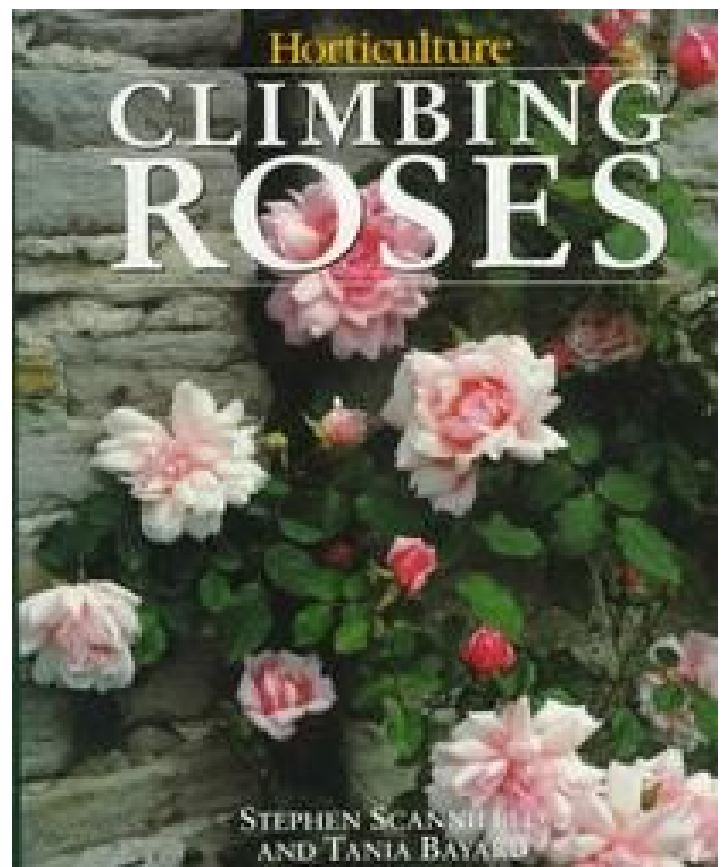
Russell's Cottage Rose (before 1837)
Splendens (before 1841)
Sombreuil (1850)
Zephirine Drouhin (1868)
American Pillar (1902)
Penelope (1924)
New Dawn (1930)
Blaze (1932)
Dortmund (1955)
Don Juan (1958)
Altissimo (1966)
Country Dancer (1973)
Jeanne Lajoie (1975)
Red Cascade (1976)

The next section of the book deals with how to grow climbers. Some of the topics covered

include the proper site, what to look for when purchasing a climber, how to prepare the bed, fertilizing, watering, mulching and winter protection. The section concludes with some general rules for pruning climbers.

The last chapter of the book deals with ways to use climbing roses. The authors discuss climbers as shrubs, climbers as hedges, climbers as ground covers, pegged climbers, and climbers trained into trees. Climbers on trellises and pergolas are also discussed, along with climbers on pillars.

If you love climbers, or are just thinking about adding them to your garden, this is a "must read" book.



Editor's Note: There are a lot of good books with very useful information in our HRS Library. The library cart is out at each meeting. See our librarian, Maria Trevino. I'm sure that she can help you find a book that you will enjoy. Books are checked out by members and brought back to the next meeting.

KID'S KORNER

by Gaye Hammond

Hey kids - this column is new and just for you! Each month we will send you news and things to do that will help make you the smartest kid in the class when it comes to growing plants. So let's start out with --- you guessed it --- ROSES!

Roses have lived in America for millions and millions of years. They were here during the time of dinosaurs and they are still here. Dinosaurs are not. Do you think this means that roses were stronger than the T-Rex and long necks? I do.

During the dino-days roses were wild rambling thickets. My grandson, David, would call them great "sticker bushes" but back in those days, not all roses had thorns. Roses have come a long way since that time. Today, they are the most popular flower IN THE WHOLE WORLD!

We like them so much in America that we recognize the Rose as our national flower. Many of the states in our country have named a rose as their state flower. Do you know which ones?

Rose Quest for April: Let's discover which states honor a rose as their state flower. (Hint - you are looking for 4 states.). The first young reader to send the correct answer to me gets a gift certificate to my favorite plant store. You can e-mail your answer to gayeh@LPM-triallaw.com or call me at night at 281/458-6116.

Society Potpourri

LAST MONTH'S MEETING

There was a last minute change of program due to weather in Georgia. Wendy Tilley's flight was cancelled and Donald Burger stepped in and saved the day. He gave an excellent program on Chemical Safety. It was very informative and kept the audience laughing. Thank you, Donald.

The hostesses for the meeting were Carolyn Plant, Deanna Krause, Nora Wolff, Gaye Hammond and Susan Kelly. Thank you ladies, for the delicious refreshments.

HRS Events Calendar

Mark your calendar - updates made monthly

- Apr 8** ■HRS Meeting - IPM - Mary Fulgham
Apr 17 ■HRS Rose Show
 South Main Baptist Church, Pasadena
- Apr 18 ■HRS Rose Tour - see pages 5 and 6
Apr 29-May 2 ■American Rose Society National
 Conference & Show, Shreveport, LA

2010 HRS Officers

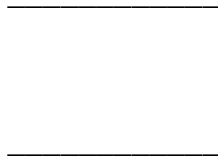
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Call a Consulting Rosarian

These Rosarians welcome your rose questions.

- | | | |
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| Elisabeth Duhon | N | 713-855-8447 |
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| John Patterson | Bry/CS | 979-690-9630 |
| ♦ Baxter / ♦ Patsy Williams | S | 713-944-3437 |

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,
Electronic only \$12.00**

January thru December. Mail membership dues to:

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Houston, TX 77017-7320
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NOTE:

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♦ Master Rosarians

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