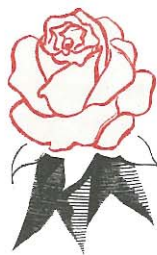


THE

ROSE ELLE



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Patsy Williams, Editor

May 2010

This Month's Meeting

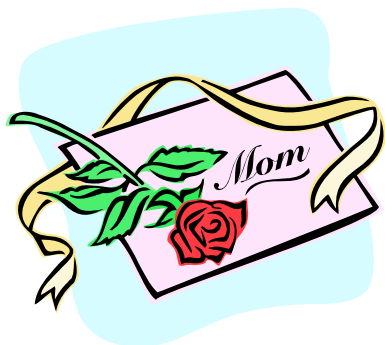
Thursday
May 13, 2010

Environmentally-Friendly Products
Linda Robbins

7:30 pm
Garden Center
Hermann Park

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Happy Mother's Day
May 9th

Environmentally-Friendly Products

Linda Robbins has worked for Nature's Way Resources since 2003. She first heard John Ferguson speak on soil health while taking a Harris County Master Gardener class. She was so interested in what he taught that, after the class, she asked John if there was a position open in his company. Linda is a Harris County Master Gardener, a member of Organic Horticulture Business-Education Alliance (OHBA), and the Houston Rose Society.

Linda will be speaking on alternative Environmentally-Friendly Products to use in landscapes. She will also talk about the Houston Rose Society Rose Soil formulated by Nature's Way Resources and components of the soil required for roses.

Consulting Rosarian for May is Earl Krause. Bring your rose questions to the meeting.

Grand Prix Continues - Bring your best blooms. Entries must be in by 7:30 pm. Special class for novices. Best novice wins a prize.

Feature of the Month: Floribunda Bouquet, 5 or more stems (one bloom per stem or sprays), any variety or combination of varieties displayed in a container furnished by the exhibitor.

SPECIAL: 7:00 pm, Beginner's Corner by Donald Burger. "Quick and Easy Irrigation Systems for Your Roses." The weather is beginning to warm up. Come early to hear Donald's discussion.



pw

What Good Rosarians Are Doing in May

Spring seems to have been a little slow in coming this year. Many of our roses bloomed a little later than usual. The spring Rose Show got cancelled, but the Garden Tour was a big hit. We saw some beautiful yards.

April has come and gone and has left some rosarians trying to play catch-up in the yard. We have had weather men predicting rain, but to no avail for many of us. We never knew whether to water or not.

Water, Water, Water

To keep roses happy they need water. The soil should be moist but not soggy. Water is the most important element that you supply to your roses. It makes everything else work. Without water, plants will acquire no food.

Now for that dreaded word: Spraying!

Spraying a preventive fungicide on your plants will save you many heartaches. There are a number of sprays that can be used: Ortho® Rose Pride® Disease Control (Funginex), Immunox, or Fertilome with Banner, every 7 days; Honor Guard, or Compass, every 14 days. There are other preventive fungicides on the market. These are a few that have worked for me. No fungicide will do you any good on the shelf; it has to be applied to the plant.

If you are among the number that still have blackspot, add Mancozeb to your choice of preventive, and spray weekly until the spots are no longer there, then drop out the Mancozeb, but continue to spray the preventive. Blackspot is much easier to prevent than to cure.



Thrips

While we have had plenty of aphids this spring, thrips seem to be our worst problem. These are the critters that make the blooms look so brown and dirty. If you want clean blooms, you will have to spray buds and blooms. It is best to remove the old blooms, tie them up in a plastic bag, and I like to put them in the sun to bake until the garbage man comes by. Conserve SC is a product that protects beneficial insects. It is not one that is friendly to your pocketbook. There are harsher products that will probably kill more of the thrips

but they will also kill beneficial insects. Orthene (active ingredient - acephate) does a good job but kills all insects.

Orthene has been hard to come by. A rosarian, Larry Silverstein, sent the following to me. *(In Richmond there is a farm and garden store, with a Purina Checker Board sign in front. They have all kinds of garden chemicals and feeds.*

They sell a 1 Lb. package of material called Fire Ant Killer which contains acephate at 75%. It is Surrender brand, by Control Solutions, Inc, 5903 Genoa-Red Bluff, Pasadena, TX 77507-1041. I paid only \$14.99 for the pound of ant killer.)

You might like to check your local feed store for availability.

Spider mites. Oh, those awful words again! Yes, spider mites often over-winter in your rose garden. If you had them last year, you will have them again this year. They like the warmth of brick walls and driveways. They like miniature roses because of their closeness to the ground and their dense foliage. A rose bush can be defoliated in just a few days. Check your foliage often. If it begins to look like it is losing its color and turning a little gray, look on the bottom sides of the leaf. Does it resemble salt and pepper? Does it have a trashy look? Rub the bottom side of the leaf on a piece of white paper. Do you see orange streaks? If any of these symptoms are present, your roses are infected with spider mites. "Do not pass go, do not collect \$200." Do go to the nearest water faucet, connect a water hose, connect something that will give you a high-pressure water spray, and spray the undersides of the leaves NOW! Do this every other day for a week to interrupt their life cycle. They have to be on the plant to reproduce. Water is the safest and friendliest to the environment and to you. And if you get a little wet while doing it, you probably needed cooling off anyway. Spider Mites are sure to come when you spray insecticides that kill everything.

Our roses always show some age as this month goes by. Canes that were marginal begin to die

or show a lot of stress, and they will be removed from the bushes. They just take up space, create too much shade over more-productive canes, and hide unwanted insect pests. But there are some principles to follow when removing bush parts after the first bloom.

Dead canes can be removed at any time, and should be completely trimmed away. Don't leave nubs. Cut dead canes down to the bud union, and smooth with its surface. Any little short piece remaining will eventually begin to rot into the bud union, and that is not good. It is these lower cane removals that would call for sealing, by using white glue. Those cut several inches up onto the bush could also be sealed, but we seldom do so, just to save time. If unsealed ones then begin to show dieback symptoms, they can be re-cut.

As blooms fade, their stems should be reduced in length. Cut those stems just above an eye (one eighth-inch above an outward-pointing leaf), as long as they are sufficient to hold up new growth with a similarly large bloom. It may be necessary to remove it down to the stem from which it originated to have sufficient diameter. DO NOT leave a stem piece with only one set of leaves, as it will not reproduce – always leave at least 2-3 sets of leaves.

Newer bushes can be fed after they have bloomed, although the first feeding should be a light one. Dose rate should be about ½ of what you give to established bushes. If you have recently (within the last 10-12 months) had a soil test, then be sure to read it carefully so that you can include the nutrients that might be lacking before.

All of that feed will make the bushes somewhat tender, and more susceptible to insects and diseases. If you have Lady Bird beetles in your garden, then you can depend on them to get rid of the aphids for you, and save time and money on insecticides. If not, then either get some Lady Birds (from Internet sources), or find your bottle of insecticide. It doesn't take much product to kill aphids, since they are tender beasts.

Fertilizers. Roses are heavy eaters and require a continuous source of nutrients. Most granular rose fertilizers are applied on a four-to-six weeks basis. Soluble fertilizers are usually applied every two weeks. Should you like to feed your roses every week, the dosage (strength) can be cut in half and that amount can be applied weekly. Whatever your type of fertilizer, read the label, and use per the recommendation on the container. Always water before and after fertilizing to prevent damage to the tender feeder roots.

Soluble fertilizers can be mixed in plastic trash cans to allow for mixing more at one time, and then can be poured around each plant by dipping a gallon container into the trash can. This makes liquid feeding a little easier. Another solution is to use a siphon. The package tells you how to mix and use.

Rosarians with larger gardens use a submergible pump, and pump the fertilizer through a water hose to the plant. Whatever your method, *feed* your roses.

Note: Roses in pots can be purchased and planted at any time, allowing you more flexibility in your garden, but newly-planted potted roses will require water more often than one that is established. The soil that was in the pot dries out very fast. Until the recently-planted rose gets its roots established into the surrounding soil, you will have to water the rose almost every day.

Yellow leaves. It's about this time of year that yellow leaves begin to appear on our roses. The first sets of leaves which emerge on a new cane will be the first to turn yellow and drop off when they have completed their tasks. When yellow leaves are present, identify the reason before you panic. Either too much or too little water will cause a bush to drop leaves. A bush likes to be turgid, but not drowning.

Label your roses. A garden is a much friendlier garden when you have nametags on your roses. A visitor does not have to ask you the name of a rose which he/she likes. A mental note can be made about the name of a favorite.



Blind Shoots

by Baxter Williams

“Blind shoots?” “Terminal shoots?” Who is it that is doing the shooting at the duck blinds and the railroad blinds? Terminology is a wonderful thing. We need to understand just how a rose bush works so that we can successfully deal with its idiosyncrasies as it grows, and we will be more successful if we all speak the same language. So, let us think a bit about those stems (let’s call them “blinds” in this article) on our roses that never seem to produce any flowers.

Why don’t blinds grow like the other canes?
There is more than one answer to the question. First, a stem will terminate whenever there is damage to its tip, known as the “apical meristem”. This damage can be caused by a variety of things, such as frosts/freezes, temperature drops while the new growth is forming (probably the main cause), insects, and high wind or mechanical damage from adjacent stems or thorns.

Second, blinds ordinarily don’t get the full amount of nourishment required to flourish. This might be as a result of their junction with the canes from which they develop. It is easily understood that a mal-nourished growth will not ever grow to a healthy size nor make decent flowers. Blinds sometimes grow to be only a fraction of an inch in length, and they quite often have sort of a “floret” of tiny leaves. Those small ones are so easy to detect, since they almost always are on the outer layer of a cane, and they exhibit 3-5 leaves on a 3/8-inch long stem. While some blinds can be several inches in length, neither those nor the very short ones have a decent stem diameter.

All of them do possess an obvious non-productive tip, which has no evidence of becoming a strong cane bearing a nice flower. And all of them can be removed from your rose bush without any detriment to the plant. It might be noted that a blind stem having a somewhat larger diameter, say *almost* the size of a pencil, can sometimes be groomed just above one of its lower 5- to 7-leaflet leaves to

produce a productive stem that will produce a flower. Such a flower is likely to be smaller than normal for that variety, and its stem won’t be as strong as a normal one. I would rather remove the blind so that a larger stem will come elsewhere on the plant.

Third, many times blinds don’t flourish because of their locations on the bushes. A small cluster of leaves down low on the bush doesn’t usually get enough sunlight to grow adequately, and so is self-limiting. *But there is a worse problem!*

Blind growths are many times, because of their foliage density, able to shade normal leaf growths, which then cannot succeed because of lack of the solar radiation necessary to convert the plant’s juices into plant food. If the leaves cannot see the sunshine, they cannot convert the nutrients into the starches and sugars required by the plants. Removal of the blinds can help your bushes to stay healthy and fat – well, maybe not “fat”.

Blinds almost always give rise to other non-desired issues. Because of the compactness of blinds’, they are ideal places for insects such as aphids and spider mites to hide. Removal of the blinds can help you to keep the plant free of these “bad guys”.

And blinds seem to be less robust and therefore are usually *less* resistant to fungi. Black spot can attack a blind growth with more ease, rather than a healthy cane with strong leaves and which receives good sunlight.

While some rose enthusiasts believe that *any* leaf is a good thing to have on the bush, I think that weak, non-productive ones should be located in the *trash* or the *compost heap*. The bush will not be as full of foliage, but the foliage that is on the bush will be healthier and more disease and insect resistant when the blinds are absent.



Rose of the Month

Sally Holmes

by Robin Hough

The Rose of the Month for May is *Sally Holmes*, a winner in every way. Introduced by English hybridizer Robert A. Holmes in 1976, it received the Royal National Rose Society Trial Ground certificate in 1975, Belfast Certificate of Merit in 1979, the Baden Baden Gold Medal in 1980, the Glasgow Fragrance Award in 1993, and the Portland Gold Medal in 1993! I'm not the only one who loves this rose --- it's ARS rating is 8.9. That puts it in the top 1% of rated roses.

Sally Holmes, a hybrid musk shrub, resulting from a cross between hybrid musk *Ballerina* and floribunda *Ivory Fashion*. It combines the large blooms of *Ivory Fashion* with the "get up and grow" of *Ballerina*. In fact, I treat this rose as a climber on the front of my house. It blooms in large clusters beginning with lovely apricot-colored buds that open to white fragrant flowers 3 to 4 inches across. The five petals of the blossoms look delicate, but they last quite a while on the plant. This rose is truly a spectacular sight when in full bloom.



Hybrid musk roses generally can get by with a couple of hours less sunlight than most other roses. This also can let the single blooms last a bit longer. And did I mention that disease resistance is excellent?

Don't plant this rose in the middle of a bed of hybrid teas; it needs plenty of room to flourish. But if you have a spot in your garden against a wall or fence that gets morning sun, I promise you that *Sally Holmes* will not disappoint!



I See Red

by Baxter Williams

...And it is OK. Every spring the calls come from rose enthusiasts who have seen reddish stems and foliage, and who are concerned that something might have been done wrong when pruning and fertilizing and mulching. I try to explain that many varieties do, indeed, make reddish stems and foliage as they first begin their spring growth, and that there should be no concern about what has been experienced. To me it is exciting to see that beautiful deep red foliage all around the garden, because it tells me that the bushes are “happy” and will soon produce long stems bearing gorgeous flowers that smell good. That color is exactly that for which is being hoped.

But that is not the only red seen. There are also the red handles on the Felco Pruners and Saws. Those handles have not only done their duty by reducing my bushes through the removal of unwanted canes, but have also saved me countless hours of searching for those implements left beside a pruned bush somewhere. Any bright color (such as PINK, huh, Patti?) on a handle makes for easy location of errant tools.

There are some red creatures that you'd rather not see in your garden. Fire ants come quickly to mind. They seem to locate mostly at the edges of our rose beds, and therefore boil up to find our gloves and arms and socks and legs every time we venture too near their mounds. I applaud the makers of all kinds of baits and ant killer insecticides. Keep up the good work, guys.

Another bad kind of red insects is spider mites. They are so destructive of our roses, and can so weaken a bush as to almost kill it because of severe defoliation. They are to be killed or controlled immediately upon detection. When your leaflets become unnaturally grey in their centers, or become sort of bronzed in the summer, look underneath. If it looks as if they have been salted and peppered, that is a bad sign. Take such a leaflet off the plant and place it right-side up on a clean sheet of paper, press down, and slowly drag it across the paper. If you see light reddish streaks on the paper, you

will be looking at crushed bodies of spider mites, and it is time to get them off your bushes. See the “What Good Rosarians Are Doing” section to find a sensible remedy for this problem.

I like to see red birds in the garden. From time to time they have made nests in taller, denser bushes. They help with insect control, add dashes of crimson all around, and fill my ears with their incessant warnings to stay away from their nests.

From time to time I see an annoyance of red on my arm or hand – blood, from rose thorn damage to my body. Such anticipated trauma (you really can't expect to come out scratch-free when you're maintaining roses) always produces “battle scars” that can be proudly worn to your next rose society meeting. It should be noted here that you should get periodic *tetanus* booster shots, to prevent the possibility of infection. When the red goes down your arm in streaks, get to the doctor immediately – we don't to bemoan your passing.




But the most exciting red in the garden is always the roses, such as *Timeless*, shown in the picture above, or *Oklahoma*, or *Veterans' Honor*, or *Mister Lincoln*. The old adage, “Roses are red”, is a good one, and those red varieties are always eye-catchers. Add that color to a strong fragrance, and you have winners for the enjoyment of every visitor to your garden.

I sometimes see red at rose shows, when I observe people touching blooms before they have been judged. And sometimes I silently grit my teeth when it has become apparent that

misinformation has been passed to the unwary. That always makes me want to give an instant correction, but I know that the information-giver needs to gain knowledge that we Consulting Rosarians have failed to give, or have failed to give clearly. We should take some of the responsibility for the reason for the “red” feelings.

I also see red when I notice that there are groups of rose society members standing around talking to each other when there are visitors in the room, to whom no one has even spoken. Folks, those people are the potential Officers in our future, but not unless someone bothers to make them welcome. Here’s a suggestion: Make it a point to, every month, greet at least one person in the room to whom you’ve never spoken at all. That will net you twelve new acquaintances per year, and we will have a shot at some new blood in our future Boards. None of this will happen without your assistance.

I see red when the cell phone goes off during the main speaker’s presentation, or the president’s comments, or the CR’s discussion. Most speakers will blow off the interruption, but it is still bad manners. And I see VERY RED when there is a “texting” going on in the automobile next to mine on the freeway. 

Kids’ Korner

by Gaye Hammond

Welcome to all of our new members from Shady Grove Elementary School in Burnet, Texas! Ms. Dykes’ & Ms. Kneese’s second and third grade class are doing something really special.

The students at this school have planted a rose garden that is part of a really big science experiment. Their experiment will help us learn which roses grow best in really rocky places in Texas where it does not rain very much. Check out their project on the school district’s website, <http://www.burnet.txed.net>.


When we were at the kids’ garden project last month we saw lots of critters (bugs), and so we made it a project to see how many bugs we could find and what those bugs were. Knowing

if a bug is good or bad for plants (and you) is really important. Some bugs eat on our flowers and make them ugly or sick. Other bugs, like lady bugs, eat the bad bugs and these good bugs are ones we want to keep around – so don’t squish them.

The bad bugs that we see most often right now are called aphids. Aphids look like tiny green balls and are usually found near the top of plant. It is easy to find them if a plant has dark reddish-purple new growth, because this is the part of the plant that they like best. Aphids have needle-like beaks and poke tiny holes in tender leaves, stems and buds and suck out the plant’s juice. This causes the part of the plant they eat on to wilt and die. While they won’t hurt us, they can keep our roses from blooming like they should. So aphids will be the subject of our rose quest for May.

Rose Quest: Carolina Auffarber was the winner of last month’s Rose Quest, correctly identifying Georgia, Iowa, New York and North Dakota as the states which have a rose as their state flower. Carolina received a \$20 gift certificate to the Arbor Gate Nursery in Tomball. Way to go – Carolina!

For May, let’s go on an aphid hunt. Inspect the plants in your yard. Look carefully at the tops of the plants where the new leaves are beginning to start and new buds are beginning to form. Sometimes aphids like to hide in the tiny cracks where the leaves meet the stems. When you find aphids, ask your parents’ permission to take care of their aphid problem. To do this, put the spray nozzle on the end of the water hose. Turn the water on full force and BLAST the aphids off the plant with the water. This knocks the aphids to the ground (where the lady bugs will eventually find and eat them). The aphids will not live long enough to make their way back up to the top of the bush to feed.

But in your Quest, watch out for lady bug eggs. These will be clusters of little round balls on the underside of leaves. The eggs will be yellow or orange. If not disturbed, the lady bug eggs will hatch and your yard will have its own army of bug terminators. 



HRS Library Corner

by Maria Trevino

How often has someone told you, “I can’t grow roses.” Peter Schneider has written *Right Rose, Right Place* to demystify the idea that roses are hard to grow. Mr. Schneider is the editor of *the Combined Rose List*, an annual directory of roses in

commerce, and *Taylor’s Guide to Roses*. He has written numerous articles on roses. And his opinions are not just “book knowledge.” They are backed up by the experience both he and his wife have had growing 1,200 different roses spread out over eight acres in their rural Ohio home.

Choosing the right rose at the start will save you a lot of trouble. The author highlights over 350 roses and describes their special characteristics that have proven to be outstanding performers in his Ohio garden. You say Houston is not close to Ohio? Don’t despair. Mr. Schneider does an excellent job of telling which roses do not fare well in the South, and which will thrive.

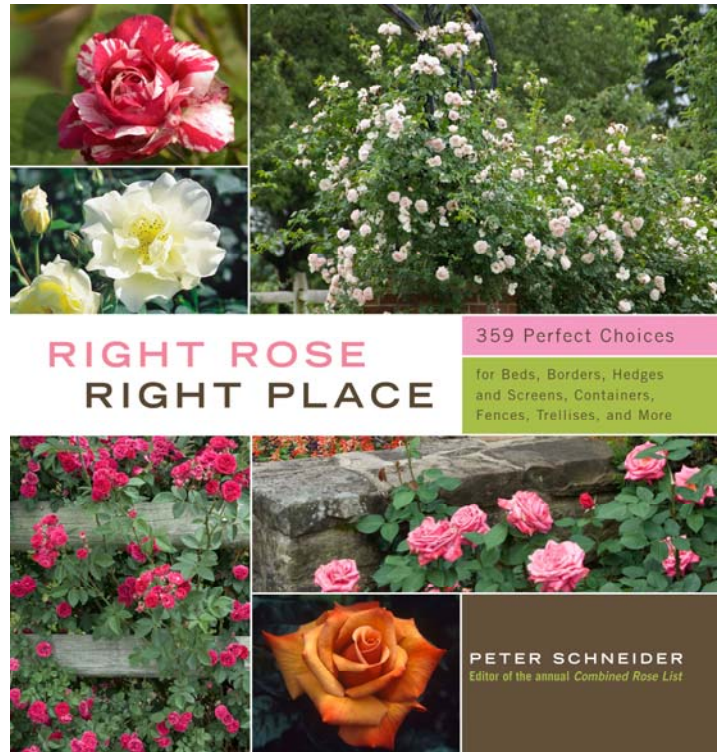
The book is divided into three main sections. The first section contains general information about the author’s garden, and descriptions about the rose classes, that help you understand the particular appearance of a rose or where, in the garden, a rose could be grown suitably.

The second section is about roses in the garden and landscape. It contains descriptions and photographs of over 350 roses based on whether they are best grown by themselves, grown in beds and borders, or those that can be happy with other plants. Cutting roses, miniature roses, climbing roses, tree roses, and roses in containers are also discussed.

Included in the descriptions are the class, bloom color and size, hardiness, whether the rose is a repeat bloomer, and the overall height of the bush. Information on who introduced the rose is also provided. The descriptions are detailed and include comments on the rose growth habits in zones other than Ohio. There is a note on each rose as to the “Right Place” to grow. The side bars found throughout this section are fun to read and informative. The author uses cut-up mini blinds as plant labels. Noting that tastes in window treatments have changed, he reports that mini blinds are often found on the side of the road on trash day or at the Goodwill Store.

He had more trouble finding a suitable marker for the labels. After many trials and errors, he found Allflex markers, used by farmers to mark cow ear tags. The ink lasts for four or more years through rain, sun and cold. However, this marker is usually found only at real dairy farmer supply houses, not the feed stores geared for city living.

The last sections deals with the basics of rose care from planting, watering, feeding, and pruning to dealing with diseases and pests. All in all, this is a well thought out treatise on proving that anyone can grow roses—if they get the *right* rose for the *right* spot.



Society Potpourri

LAST MONTH'S MEETING

Thanks to Mary Fulgham for a very informative program on IPM. When we learn to identify different fungi and insects, it makes knowing what to use control the problem easier.

Thanks to Gaye Hammond, Susan Kelly and Manel Perera for the delicious refreshments.

Grand Prix Results:

Queen - *Boardwalk* - Earl/Deanna Krause
Best Fl. - *Enchanted Evening* - Nobu Kobori
Mini Queen - *Camden* - Earl/Deanna Krause
Court - *Dr. Troy Garret* - Earl/Deanna Krause
Olympic Gold - Earl/Deanna Krause
Best OGR - *Lamarque* - Earl/Deanna Krause
Best Other - *Sombreuil* - Nobu Kobori
Novice - *Don Juan* - James D. Rodriguez

HRS Partners With Calloways/Cornelius Nurseries

The great folks at Calloways and Cornelius Nurseries have announced that they will be giving Houston Rose Society members a 10% discount on all regularly priced merchandise (not just rose-related products). To take advantage of this offer, present your HRS Membership Card, or the current issue of *The Rose-Ette*, at the time of check-out. Member discounts do not apply to sale merchandise.

Calloways/Cornelius Nurseries have 19 stores in Texas, including two in Houston at 2233 Voss Road (3/4th mile north of Westheimer) and 1200 North Dairy Ashford (south of Interstate 10). Over half of the staff at these stores are Texas Certified Nursery Professionals, and the company owners go to great lengths to educate all of their employees on the plants they carry and how these plants are properly cared for. LET'S GO SHOPPING!

HRS Events Calendar

Mark your calendar - updates made monthly

May 13 ■HRS Meeting - Environmentally-Friendly Products - Linda Robbins

June is National Library Month

June is both National Library Month *and* National Rose Month. If you are interested in sponsoring a display at your local public library, the Houston Rose Society will give your library a year's membership to the American Rose Society (with a subscription to the American Rose magazine). In addition, the ARS will donate a copy of *Modern Roses 12* to your library. This volume is the most complete reference book on roses in existence.

For more information on how you can make this happen, call Robin Hough at 281-482-8944. A limited number of libraries can be sponsored, so don't put this off!

Garden Thanks!

The Society is profoundly grateful to those members who opened their gardens to visitors on Sunday, April 18th. Our thanks to Carolyn Plant, William and Joan Groth, David and Renee Cummins, Bert and Wanda Williams, and James and Debbie Laperouse. The early rain showers turned to sunshine, and the blooms were gorgeous. Thanks, Folks, for all you put into making this a memorable Tour.

2010 HRS Officers

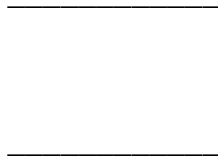
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THE HOUSTON ROSE SOCIETY is a non-profit educational organization affiliated with The American Rose Society and dedicated to the cultivation of roses in the Houston area.

**MEMBERSHIP is \$15.00 per calendar year,
Electronic only \$12.00**

January thru December. Mail membership dues to:

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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 |
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| Elisabeth Duhon | N | 713-855-8447 |
| ♦ Mary Fulgham / Randy Keen | Bel | 713-668-4054 |
| William Groth | SW | 713-728-1854 |
| Gaye Hammond | NE | 281-458-6116 |
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| John Jons | SE | 281-794-2998 |
| Robin Kohler | W | 713-935-0329 |
| ♦ Earl / ♦ Deanna Krause | SE | 281-487-3347 |
| James Laperouse | NW | 281-469-4056 |
| Jeniver Lauran | S | 713-433-2524 |
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| Shirley Morgan | W | 713-463-6719 |
| John Patterson | Bry/CS | 979-690-9630 |
| ♦ Baxter / ♦ Patsy Williams | S | 713-944-3437 |

♦ Master Rosarians

Randall's Remarkable Card for HRS, # 5928