

THE ROSE ELLE



Published by **THE HOUSTON ROSE SOCIETY**
A Non-Profit Corporation / Affiliated With The American Rose Society

Upcoming Events

Thurs, July 13 - Houston Rose Society's Ice Cream Social and Vendor Fair at 7:30 pm, Houston Garden Center in Hermann Park. Free, the public is welcome. See www.houstonrose.org for directions. These may give you an idea about alternate routes around the construction.

Thurs, Aug 10 - HRS meeting with Stephen Scanniello, former curator of the Cranford Rose Garden at the Brooklyn Botanic Gardens on "The Magic of Old Garden Roses. Scanniello's books include: Climbing Roses, with Tania Bayard, 1994; Rose Companions: Growing Annuals, Perennials, Bulbs, Shrubs, and Vines with Roses, 2005; Year of Roses, 1997 and Easy-Care Roses: Low-Maintenance Charmers, 1995. Don't miss this meeting & bring your friends!

Thurs, Sept 14 - HRS regular meeting, 7:30 pm

Oct 13 to 16 - 2006 Fall National Convention and Rose Show, Dallas. Claude & Pam Graves, claudegraves@comcast.net or (972) 234-5184 for info.

Oct 19 to 22 - Rose Festival, Tyler, Texas. For info go to www.texasrosefestival.com

October 27 to 29 - HRS rose show and display at the Texas Home & Garden Show, Reliant Center.

Annual Ice Cream Social

This month's meeting is our ice cream social. Everyone is encouraged to bring their favorite topping (fruit, sauces, whipped cream, etc.), or cookies. We will even have sugar-free ice cream. There will be NO Grand Prix this month, but bring some roses for a "Wacky Competition":

- Arrangement with the most mismatched pair of roses;
- Smallest hybrid tea rose bloom;
- Largest bloom of any kind;
- Most fragrant rose - determined by vote of attendees; and
- Most unusual bloom - determined by vote of attendees

Also, various vendors that support HRS will have tables of their wares or information for you. There will be door prizes galore! Here is a partial list:

- Arbor Gate Nursery - garden supplies and more;
- Countryside Water Gardens - water gardens, fish, supplies;
- Maria's Designs - rose-themed, hand painted and embroidered clothing, jewelry and accessories;
- Nature's Way Resources - HRS formulated Rose Soil Blend and other organic composts and mulches;
- Southern Living at Home - interior home decorations;
- Southwest Fertilizer - host of our fall chemical sale;
- Teas Nursery - garden supplies and roses;
- Vintage Rosery - OGR's and organic products;
- Houston Rose Society -- Baxter Williams has arranged for more than 20 large rose bushes from Robertson's Nursery to be sold. They will be \$20 each and are top notch. Come early for the best selection.

This is always a fun meeting. Join us and bring a friend! Order of serving for ice cream is determined by a rose trivia contest from Patsy Williams and Maria Trevino. A look at www.ars.org and www.houstonrose.org might help you get ready.

JULY 2006

JULY ROSE CARE

First of all – take care of yourself. These hints come from Ed Bradley, editor of the San Antonio Rose Society's newsletter.

• Drink plenty of liquids, preferably, plain cold water. Passing liquids through your body, especially as sweat, is your cooling system, and your first line of defense against heat exhaustion. Alcoholic beverages are strictly a “no-no”, and soft drinks run a close second. The sugar and caffeine in soft drinks are actually dehydrating agents. Products such as Gatorade, which rapidly replace some essential elements, are good. Stick close to the water jug.

• Summer brings out some unusual insects, many of which may be harmful. Watch out for spiders, bees, wasps, hornets, scorpions, and mosquitoes. Use a proven insect repellent such as OFF, Skin-So-Soft (by Avon), or other similar products. Be prepared to deal with wasp and bee stings. DEET has been the most common protection against mosquito-borne diseases. Picaridin is a synthetic repellent which has been approved and is sold as U.S. Cutter Advanced. Additionally, a natural product, oil of lemon eucalyptus, has been found to be effective and is sold as Repel Lemon Eucalyptus. Oil of eucalyptus is the agent in “OFF Botanicals”.

• Wear comfortable, loose fitting clothing. The fabric should also be loosely woven, and of natural fibers that “breathe” well and absorb moisture. Synthetics are generally much hotter than natural fabrics.

• Wear a protective hat, to shade your face, ears, and neck. Ball caps are only partially effective.

• Wear comfortable and protective footwear. Don't go into the garden in house slippers or flip-flops. Some ladies sandals aren't much better than flip-flops.

• Wear gloves – leather when working with thorns, cotton or latex when working in soil.

• Use a sunscreen on all exposed areas.

• Being in the garden more increases the probability for cuts and bruises. Have your First-Aid kit well stocked with band-aids, peroxide, rubbing alcohol, cotton balls, and other cleansing and healing agents.

• Get a tetanus booster shot, if needed.

Most of all, don't over do it! Know your limitations. Don't exert yourself to the point of exhaustion.”

As for taking care of your plants:

WATER, WATER, and WATER. Roses need a minimum of an inch of water per week, and in this heat, two is better. Keep the soil in the root zone moist. If you are relying on rain for part of the allotment, check to see how well the rain is reaching the root zone. Sometimes, even after a bad storm, only the top of the soil will be wet.

Keeping a good layer of mulch and pulling weeds will help conserve water. Pay particular attention to mini's and roses in pots. They dry out faster.

Blooms will be smaller due to the heat, and there is nothing to do about that. Some roses won't be blooming at all, but that is fine.

If the rose is continuing to bloom, give it a light feeding, but if it is not blooming, skip feeding until next month.

Thrips should not be a problem now, but spider mites love hot dry weather. They live on the underside of leaves and suck the juices out of the plant. A miticide such as Avid is the answer if you have not had success by blasting the mites off the bush with a strong jet of water. Do this every third day and it will interrupt the breeding cycle.

Spraying your bushes with water won't hurt them if you do it early in the day so they have time to dry or if you have been spraying. The blackspot fungus needs a moist leaf surface for about seven hours to “take root”. Sprays are effective even on wet foliage.

JULY 2006

YELLOW LEAVES

By Baxter Williams, Master Consulting Rosarian

"Even in the dead of winter, I have color in my rose garden – brown canes, black spots and yellow leaves." Perhaps that description has also fit your garden from time to time, as it has mine. But it might be that this "color" is resident for most of the growing season. What is the reason, or reasons, for this discoloration?

The answer is, of course, that there are several reasons for yellow leaves. The causes can be divided into two groups: problems in the root zone, and problems with the leaves themselves. Perhaps our analyses should start with the roots.

In the root zone, problems can usually be traced to dryness, too much water, or pH imbalance. When the soil is allowed to dry out, it becomes drier than your rose's roots, which cannot then take up nutrients or life-giving moisture. If the soil is dry, moisture will leave the roots and move into the soil, desiccating the plant and shutting down its circulatory system. The leaves will do their best to retain cell moisture, but the plant will abort them to prevent further loss through the stomata (pores). The leaves are likely to change to a bright yellow, beginning low on the plant and uniformly distributed. The problem solution is water, and lots of it.

Curiously, too much water in the root zone excludes needed oxygen and promotes rotting of the roots. The adage, "Roses don't like 'wet feet'," is true. The solution is two-fold: raised beds (12 inches above the existing soil) or, in beds with proper drainage, replacing packed soil with some that is more porous.

Rotting is most likely caused by pythium, which is a soil fungus. Pythium can be eliminated by applying a soil drench of Subdue Maxx™ or Aliette™, but that action might not save an already-infected plant.

Pythium can also attack an otherwise seemingly healthy plant, causing its decline (or demise) while not affecting adjacent plants.

A large excursion of pH in the root zone, say below values of 5.5 (much too acid) or above 7.0 (too basic, or "alkaline"), prevents the uptake of nutrients by "locking up" the atoms. Nutrient atoms must be ionized (electrically charged by removing a particle) to be ingested, and high- or low pH cancels the ionic charge. Visible effects are slow to manifest themselves, and are likely to show up as loss of chlorophyll (less dark green) in the leaves, and eventual yellowing. The solution for too high pH is to add a soil acidifier in small amounts, checking between each adjustment, until pH is between 6.5 and 6.8. For too low pH, add dolomite lime, checking between adjustments until pH is between 6.5 and 6.8. Note: Raising the pH takes a long time (days or weeks) because of slow chemical reaction time in the ground.

With respect to leaf yellowing caused by maladies in upper (above the roots) plant parts, be aware that some normal leaf drop will occur. The leaf at the node from which a lateral cane grew will drop eventually, when its effectiveness diminishes. It could very well be the only yellow leaf on the bush. It will happen; no solution.

A leading cause of leaf drop is blackspot fungus. Almost every variety of roses is susceptible to this disease. Blackspot is insidious in that every blackspotted leaf is sure to drop; they are fatally damaged. And blackspots are deceptive: Their presence indicates damage that was done to the plant 10-15 days prior to their appearance. The corollary to this idea is profound: if some of the leaves on a plant show blackspot, then other non-spotted leaves are probably already damaged, that damage being not yet visible. The solution is to spray the bushes with a contact fungicide mixed with a

penetrant type fungicide, and to continue to do so every week. After 4-5 sprayings, the contact fungicide only can be discontinued.

Powdery Mildew and Rust fungi can also defoliate a plant over a relatively short period of time. Powdery Mildew causes whitish spore masses, both on leaf surfaces and on other tender plant parts, which precede yellowing and leaf drop, usually by several days. Rust is not native to our area, and is only contracted from infected plants shipped into the area. Treat as for blackspot.

Manual damage from adjacent thorns or other abrasive sources is possible. If severe enough, the plant will abort the leaf. Solution: remove the source.

Spider Mites can, and will, cause yellowing and leaf drop. Damage from Spider Mites is nearly always first evidenced by a reduction of chlorophyll (a gray-green cast) in the centers of the leaflets. Eventually the leaflets will yellow and drop away. Solution: Destroy the Spider Mite colony underneath the leaflets by using high-pressure water washes at 2-day intervals for a week, or by spraying with Avid.

Water 'em, feed 'em, spray 'em, eliminate harmful insects, and keep the soil pH correct, and you'll be enjoying the Queen of Flowers for most of the year.

HEADS UP! **BIG ROSE SHOW COMING UP**

By Gaye Hammond, Consulting Rosarian

The perfect place for gardeners to show off their treasures is at a rose show. Regardless of whether you have been growing roses for a month or decades, every rose show has categories screaming to receive your blooms!

There are several categories in a rose show which beginning participants may find easier to master and less intimidating than competing with others for Queen of Show. These categories feature only the rose blooms - no leaves and no stems. In these categories whether the foliage is riddled with blackspot or caterpillar nibbles becomes irrelevant - making this type of entry easier for many to have great success with.

Entries consisting of only rose blooms are the following categories: (1) English Box, (2) Rose-in-a-Bowl, (3) Artist's Palette. This article will share tips from Bob Martin, the authority on rose exhibiting and author of *Showing Good Roses*¹ and *The Rose Exhibitor's Forum*.

English Box. As one might imagine, this category dates back to the first British Rose Show in 1858. The "Box" concept evolved as a way for show participants to transport their

blooms (usually by train) to the city where the show was being held. "Boxes" were wooden structures having a removable lid which, once the lid was removed, showcased only rose blooms.

While overseas rose shows may allow for collections of as many as 36 blooms in this category, in the US, most English Box entries call for a 6 blooms. Today's "Boxes" are wooden structures with 2 parallel rows of 3 holes. Water tubes are connected to the 6 holes to provide hydration for the blooms during the rose show. English Box entries may be made with hybrid tea roses, miniature roses, shrub roses and/or old garden roses. Miniature roses are displayed in the same type of box as a large rose - the box is only smaller in size. Read your show schedule carefully. The show schedule will specify which type of rose is accepted in this category.

Bloom size does matter in the English Box. If possible, the roses in an English Box should be the same size. If matched sizes are not possible, graduations in size could be considered, with the larger roses at the bottom of the box and the smaller roses at the top.

Tips for preparing entries in the English Box category are:

- 1) A Box containing 6 of the same rose variety will almost always win over a Box containing 6 different roses. Two varieties of roses will usually win over a Box containing 6 different roses.
- 2) Look for roses that have a row of outer petals that will lay flat on the surface of the Box. These outer petals help keep the bloom positioned and provide the most pleasing presentation to the judges.
- 3) The blooms in the Box should present a uniform look - like they are a set or collection.
- 4) If you do not have the luxury of having 6 roses of identical quality, arrange the best roses in a group in the Box where the group will demand the judges' attention.
- 5) Roses for a Box entry are usually cut the day before or day of the rose show. Freshness counts!
- 6) If the show schedule calls for blooms to be entered in "exhibition form", this means that the center of the bloom should be tightly spiraled with the outer petals unfurling. If the show schedule does not specify "exhibition form", then the degree of opening is at the discretion of the exhibitor, and a collection of fully open blooms would be acceptable.
- 7) If the show schedule calls for "2 or more" varieties of roses to be entered in this class, feature 2 different roses in your selection (i.e., 3 blooms of Mister Lincoln, 3 blooms of John F. Kennedy for a total of 6 roses). If the show schedule calls for "1 or more varieties" use only 1 type of rose in your display (i. e., 6 blooms of Mr. Lincoln).
- 8) When using all of one type of rose in an English Box, it may be easier to use roses which do not have distinctive markings. For example, Soroptomist International is a cream/yellow miniature with distinctive crimson edging on the petals. The edging - the most eye-catching feature of this cultivar, is hardly ever in the same pattern between

blooms. If you want to use blooms with this striking feature, select 6 blooms in which the distinctive features are most similar.

- 9) When possible contact the Show Chairman (see the show schedule) prior to the show and ask the color of the English Box. Based on the Box color, make your rose selections accordingly. Almost everything looks good displayed in a black Box (what the Houston Rose Society uses). Some societies use Boxes that are green, gray and/or natural wood colors. The more striking the bloom color is against the Box background, the better your chance of winning.

Rose in a Bowl is another adaptation from English floral competitions. Generally, rose blooms featured in this category are displayed floating in water. Because every participant in a rose show can muster at least one bloom that does not have quality foliage/stems, there can be many entries in this category in a single show,

The types of containers utilized in this class are either clear glass or silver. Glass containers may be either low open bowls similar to bowls that would hold potpourri, bubble bowls typically used by florists, brandy snifters and even champagne glasses. Silver containers are usually low open bowls where the reflection of the bloom against the sides of the container is the effect the judges wish to see. Roses with high pointed centers are best displayed in bubble bowls and brandy snifters. Blooms with flattish round form are best shown in low bowls and champagne glasses.

When displaying blooms in this category:

- 1) Make sure the bowl is squeaky clean. Most of the time, participants must use bowls provided by the show committee. These bowls are used from show to show and typically get packed in boxes while wet. If your bowl is not clean or is water-spotted, empty the water from it, wipe the bowl out with a paper towel and refill it with clear clean water. Some folks even carry packages of

disposable Windex wipes with them to the show just for this purpose.

2) Fully open blooms rarely win against blooms of exhibition form except in the shrub or antique Rose-in-a-Bowl category.

3) Heavily petaled roses do better in this category than lightly petaled ones.

4) Brightly colored blooms scream out to be selected by the judges. Pale or subtle colors often are passed over by the judges in favor of brighter vibrant blooms.

5) Optimally, the bloom should be large enough to fill 2/3rds to 3/4ths of the inside of the container. The bloom SHOULD NOT touch the sides of the container.

6) The bloom must "float" on the surface of the water. No part of stem may touch the bottom of the container. Optimally, no stem should be seen.

7) No water should appear on the surface of the petals. If you splash water on the petals, a Q-tip can easily remove it.

8) If viewed from the side, the bloom should appear halfway between the top and bottom of the container. In low silver containers, you only want enough water in the container for the bloom to float, but not so much that the water level is so high that you cannot see the bloom's reflection in the sides of the container.

9) Most show schedules have separate categories for standard and miniature Rose-in-a-Bowl entries. Some shows also feature Rose-in-a-Bowl entries for shrub and antique roses. The show schedule will specify the types of roses that may be entered in these categories.

10) Entries in the Rose-in-a-Bowl category are judged from above the bowl. Thus, the appearance of your entry when looking directly down into the container is the one that the judges will use to determine if your entry qualifies for an award.

Artist's Palette is just what you might imagine -- a wooden structure in the shape of an

artist's palette provided by the show committee. The Palette has between 5 - 7 holes around the outside edge, each holding a water tube. Some rose shows will offer Palette classes for both standard and miniature roses. Some rose societies also offer Palette classes for shrub and antique roses. Some even rotate entries in these classes, accepting hybrid teas in one show, shrub roses in the next show, etc. The only difference between displaying blooms in standard and miniature classes is that the size of the miniature palette is distinctly smaller than its standard counterpart.

Palettes may be painted or natural wood. Green and black are the colors most often found on these props.

When composing a display in an Artist's Palette, consider the following:

1) Just like an artist does not paint with all one color of medium on his palette, the roses displayed on an Artist's Palette should be of more than one variety, representing the different colors of paint the artist uses.

2) Strive for a blend of tones in the blooms on display as this balance of color is pleasing to judges

3) The best Artist's Palettes feature roses of solid colors arranged usually in a progression of light to dark. Careful insertion of a blended colored rose can make the display interesting. In some instances these blended colored roses can be effectively used to bridge the color gap between two different roses of solid colors.

4) Winning Palettes usually feature roses that are at exhibition stage.

5) Many exhibitors try to use their "left-over" blooms in this category giving little or no thought to size, balance or pattern in the display, resulting in a haphazard presentation. This should be avoided. If you are faced with using "left over" blooms, repetition in color and pattern may help turn a haphazard display into a display pleasing to the judges.

6) Matched sized blooms are preferred over a random selection of sizes. Subtle gradations in size can be used to the exhibitor's advantage to create a rhythmic pattern

In many rose shows exhibitors spend much of their preparation time preparing an army of single stemmed blooms for entry in the horticulture categories - leaving preparation for above categories to a few minutes before the deadline for submitting show entries. I have seen exhibitors who could have entered these categories, fail to do so because they simply run out of time. Additionally, there are usually fewer entries in these categories than those in the single-stem classes - therefore you may have an excellent chance of winning a ribbon and/or trophy when entering one of these types of categories.

If you have hesitated on entering a rose show because you felt your blooms were somehow inferior to others, take heart. Last fall HRS members, Donald Burger and Maria Trevino, won the FIRST trophy ever awarded in the United States for a single stem of an EarthKind™ Rose. Until that time, neither had EVER participated in a rose show. Besides their massive crystal trophy, they came away with several other ribbons for entries submitted in other categories. If first-timers Donald and Maria can do this, so can you.

I encourage each and every one of our members to display at least one of the treasures from your garden in a local rose show. You will find that it is a tremendously rewarding and fun experience!

1 Recommended reading for exhibitors - Showing Good Roses by Robert B. Martin, Jr., available from www.roseshow.com

EXCITING NEWS ABOUT FALL ROSE SHOW

The Houston Rose Society will be hosting a rose show and information table at the Texas Home and Garden Show from October 27 to 29. The event will be at Reliant Center. The show is preparing a large work and display area for the rose show on Sat, Oct 28. Staff, participants and/or judges may begin to arrive on site Saturday morning at 6am to begin preparation for the competition.

We will have a membership and sale table all weekend. Members of the Houston Rose Society will be on-hand throughout the weekend to answer attendee questions regarding gardening, rose preparation, save the date so you can come help out. The show will also feature an seminar on roses.

We are very happy with the new venue and look forward to the event and to working with the Texas Home and Garden Show staff to publicize the show and rose society.

NEWSLETTER ON-LINE

Since the first of the year we have fallen victim to untimely delivery of our monthly newsletters, which we send bulk rate. The postal service cannot assure us that the problem will be resolved in the near future.

For this reason, beginning in July, our monthly newsletter will be posted on the society's website, www.houstonrose.org. A new "Member's Only" section will be created and the monthly newsletter will be posted at this location. A password will be required to access this site.

As newsletters are posted on the website our webmaster, Donald Burger, will send each member an e-mail notice reminding members of the upcoming meeting and providing the password to access the "Member's Only" site. If you have not been receiving these monthly e-mail notices from Donald, we do not have your correct e-mail address. If you wish to receive these notices, send Donald an e-mail (burger@burger.com) giving him your current e-mail address, copying Baxter Williams, our data coordinator (baxpat@wave3online.com)

with the information. Donald will acknowledge that he has received your updated information.



P. O. Box 22614
HOUSTON, TEXAS 77227-2614

Non-Profit Org.
U. S. Postage
PAID
Houston, Texas
Permit No. 4872

It's Ice Cream Social Time
July 13, 7:30 pm

Editor - *THE ROSE-ETTE*
Ella Tyler
713/66502236
ellatyler@juno.com
articles and news always welcome

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

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:

Baxter Williams
 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
David Eoff	Con	936-760-4081
Mary Fulgham * / Randy Keen	Bel	713-668-4054
William Groth	SW	713-728-1854
Anne Guignon	W	713-974-4540
Gaye Hammond	NE	281-458-6116
Richard Hosack	Braz	979-798-7218
Robin Hough*	S	281-482-8944
Robin Kohler	W	713-935-0329
Earl* / Deanna* Krause	SE	281-487-3347
Jeniver Lauran	S	713-433-2524
Doug Mitchell	S	281-992-9167
John Patterson	Bry/CS	979-690-9630
Gale Pierce	NW	281-890-7341
Mary Walker	Bel	713-665-5073
Baxter* / Patsy* Williams	S	713-944-3437
* Master Consulting Rosarian		

Randall's Remarkable Card for HRS, # 5928

Gerland's Customer Advantage, HRS, #109890