

THE
ROSE  **ELLE**

Published by **THE HOUSTON ROSE SOCIETY**

A Non-Profit Corporation / Affiliated With The American Rose Society

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Patsy Williams, Editor

July 2008

This Month's Meeting

Thursday
July 10, 2008



Ice Cream Social

7:30 pm
 Garden Center
 Hermann Park

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Happy 4th of July

Annual Ice Cream Social and Vendor Fair

This month's meeting is our "old fashioned" ice cream social. The society provides the ice cream, and everyone is encouraged to bring his or her favorite topping (fruit, nuts, sauces, candy, sprinkles, whipped cream, etc.), or cookies or brownies. We will even have sugar-free ice cream (for those with restricted dietary requirements) and root beer for floats. Ultimately, together, we create the largest ice cream sundae bar in Houston.

We are grateful to H-E-B for their generous donation for this event. Please thank them by shopping there.

Summer is a time for having fun with family and friends, and we are looking forward to having you join us.

In addition, various vendors that support HRS will have tables of their wares and information for you. Here is a partial list:

- ✳ **Arbor Gate Nursery** – garden supplies and more;
- ✳ **Buchanan's Native Plants** – garden accents and native Texas plants;
- ✳ **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;
- ✳ **RCW Nurseries** – roses and garden supplies;
- ✳ **Smith and Hawken** – items to enhance your gardening lifestyle;
- ✳ **Southwest Fertilizer** – host of our fall chemical sale;
- ✳ **Teas Nursery** – roses and garden supplies;
- ✳ **Wabash Antiques and Feed Store** – organic rose products.

There will be **NO Grand Prix this month**, but bring some roses for a "**Wacky Competition.**"

1. The most mismatched pair of roses.
2. Smallest hybrid tea rose bloom
3. Largest bloom of any kind of rose
4. Most fragrant rose
5. Most unusual bloom

Bring your wackiest specimens and join in the fun.
 Come a little early for parking purposes because of Miller Theater.

What Good Rosarians Are Doing in July

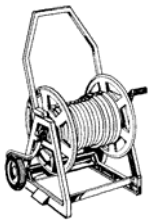
Summer is officially here! You know what that means. It's water, water, water!!! Please don't let your roses go without enough moisture. Temperatures have hit the upper 90's, and with the wind that we have had, roses dry out very fast.

Roses growing in pots need to be watered twice a day; watering once a day is not enough. Fertilizer is washed from the pots with a lot of watering. A soluble fertilizer every two weeks is good for potted roses. Half the dosage every week.

Should the pot get totally dry, put it in a pan and water it from the bottom so that it can soak up the water and get evenly moist.

Summer time does not mean that you become a "couch potato". Roses still need your attention. The sooner that you cut a spent bloom, the sooner that you will have a new one to replace it.

Leaves are the food factory for your plants. No leaves, no factory! Leave as many as you can. Leave as many leaves on newly planted roses as you can. Grow the plant first. After the root system is well established, treat the bush like the rest of your roses. The first year is critical in the development of a new plant.



Water. Water is very important especially during the heat of summer. Without water, nothing works. It is the water that makes everything else work. Without it, the plant begins to die. Whether you have an automated system or use a water hose, just use it.

Fertilizer. It is still important. If it has been a while since you fed your plants, give them some now. A one-half dose will probably be enough. Remember to water before and after fertilizing.

Insects. We are likely to see several insects, bugs and caterpillars in our garden this

summer. We will occasionally find the leaf cutter bee's handiwork, round holes that look like someone used a hole punch, June bugs feasting on our buds at night, moths laying their eggs under the leaves and hatching out into very hungry baby caterpillars that will skeletonize the leaf and then move to other parts of your plant, eating as they go. Let's not forget that thrips are still with us. They are just not as numerous at this time of year. There is no preventive spray that will fix all of the above. A close look as you walk through your garden will allow you to see, and remove, many of the problems.



Spider Mites. The heat of summer is the ideal time for spider mites. They love the heat as it radiates from sidewalks, pavement, bricks and anything else that might hold heat. Watch closely, and use your water wand on them early before they get established in your garden. Spray the undersides of the leaves every other day for at least three sprayings. If you do not get wet too, then you haven't done a good enough job. If you let mites go too long, you will have to use a miticide. Most miticides are VERY expensive. High pressure water is more environmentally friendly and much less expensive. Gardens that have been sprayed with a lot of insecticides are most likely to have spider mites, because predators that destroy spider mites have been killed with insecticides.

Mulch. Let's not forget that a good layer of mulch will help to keep the moisture in the soil so that you will not have to water as often. It also helps to keep weeds under control. Also, mulch decomposes to make hummus, and therefore needs to be replaced periodically.

It's Summer. Please use a sun block to protect you as you tend and enjoy your roses. The ozone layer is very thin and the sun's rays burn our skin very quickly. Use a sun block with a SPF of 30 or above. The best times to work in the yard are early morning and late afternoon. It is too hot at other times.





Arrangers' Corner

By Robin Hough

Welcome to July in Houston! At least we can stay inside most of the time with our air conditioning. Our roses don't have that option, unfortunately, so bloom production will be limited and small as the bushes strive to make it through yet another long, hot summer. This is a good time to relax in your favorite chair and do some reading about arranging.

Two titles you might want in your library are *Guidelines for Judging Rose Arrangements* and *Guide to Creating Rose Arrangements*, both available inexpensively from ARS. Other books not dedicated to roses are readily available. *Mechanics of Design* is a paperback with specifics on construction and is published by FTD (they should know, right?). A classic is Amalie Ascher's *The Complete Flower Arranger* (I found my copy for \$2.98 at Half-Price Books).

There are many books devoted to *ikebana*, the Japanese art of flower arrangement, and there are many schools of *ikebana*. One I have found helpful is *Ikebana*, by Stella Coe. Coe is a master of the Sogetsu School, one of the best known. This book has good practical information as well as gorgeous photographs.

Some books with a Houston connection are the three by the late M. "Buddy" Benz, Houston floral designer and founder of the Benz School of Floral Design at Texas A&M: *Flowers: Geometric Form*, *Flowers: Free Form--- Interpretive Design*, and *Flowers: Abstract Form*. As the titles indicate, these books encompass both traditional and modern design. They are available through Texas A&M University Press, but try used book stores first.

There are also lots of books about dried flowers. *Everlastings*, by Patricia Thorpe, contains instructions for drying flowers as well as a terrific catalog of flowers for drying. For those in a hurry, try *Flower Drying With A Microwave*, by Titia Joosten. *The Art of Pressed Flowers*, by Sylvia Pepper, is a useful (albeit slender) volume with some craft ideas. In addition to the practical information in these books, I like to look for inspiration and ideas.

The point is to get your imagination working, not to attempt to duplicate exactly a photo in a book. Turn the sprinkler on your roses, get comfortable, and read!

TIP: Remember roses have straight, rigid stems. Look to other plant materials for graceful, flowing lines; plant some in your garden.

ALERT: On May 24 I gave an arranging workshop in Lake Charles, LA, for the Southwest Louisiana Rose Society. There was a good turnout of around fifteen rosarians whose arranging experience ranged from "beginner" to "old pro." If you would be interested in an all-morning workshop in Houston, please let me know (rzough@earthlink.net). If there's enough interest, I'll try to set one up some time before our fall rose show.



HRS Library Book

By Maria Trevino

They say that everything is bigger in Texas. Unfortunately, that includes our bugs. Organic gardeners Malcolm Beck and Howard



Garrett have written a book equal to our bugs. It's called the *Texas Bug Book*, and it is full of good information and excellent color pictures.

The book is set up in alphabetical order, with an abundance of close-up shots of the good, the bad and the ugly. But the photos are only part of the story. The authors sprinkle stories about their bug adventures throughout the book, while offering advice on organic pest controls and home-made recipes.

There is detailed information on the life cycles of the covered insects, and the information will help you identify the bugs in your garden. Plus, even more importantly, you will be able to separate the predators from the beneficials. And that will benefit all your plants, the roses included.



This Society is for You!

By James Laperouse, Membership Chairman

Do you remember why you became a member of the Houston Rose Society? I do. And it's not for the same reason I'm still a member today, 24 years later. In fact, the reasons for remaining a member have changed for me many times over the years.

I started out just wanting to learn what to do with the dozen or so bushes I had planted back in 1981. (Debbie wanted a rose garden!) Those roses were doing "OK", but after attending a rose show, I knew there was more to growing these beauties—and I was going to find out what that was. And did I ever get lucky in finding the Houston Rose Society! The articles in *The Rose-ETTE* guided me through dealing with all sorts of rose related problems (and when that didn't work, I wore out the consulting rosarians with numerous phone calls!).

After a few years, I began to have enough confidence in my rose-growing abilities to try my hand at exhibiting. Whoa—was that a humbling experience! Exhibitors, I found out, are on their own level of horticultural excellence. Over the next few years, I talked myself out of participating in these shows by using one lame excuse after another. What a mistake! If I had only known that most exhibitors are some of the nicest, most helpful people in the world—and are more than willing to tell you everything they know about growing and showing roses—I might be well ahead of the game now. But oh, well—better late than never!

Exhibiting has led me to other aspects of this "hobby" of mine—such as photographing roses, better horticultural techniques, landscaping with roses—I may one day even try to hybridize my own roses. Arranging with roses may be in my future. I have learned much from the EarthKind program, which gives those with little time to spend in the garden, due to family, work or health reasons, a way to enjoy roses. Every meeting we attend, I pick up some new and valuable tidbit from those far more knowledgeable than myself. I also learn of new varieties before they hit the nurseries.

My point is this—as a Houston Rose Society member, your interest in roses can be varied or singular. It's all right to want to participate in many facets—or just one. It's acceptable to want to learn how to become completely "pest-free" by learning what and when to spray your roses. It's also okay if you want to learn which varieties will survive without as much care. It's all right to want to learn how to exhibit—just like it's no problem to just enjoy the beautiful blooms that are exhibited. You may be interested in total organic gardening, or how to juggle organics with chemicals, finding out about old garden roses, or the newest varieties—your interest in any or all of these things are all right. The aim of the Houston Rose Society is to be here for you no matter where your interests lie—this society is for you!



Mini National Rose Show, Oklahoma City, OK

F. Harm Saville Memorial Challenge Bowl

Sandy and Bob Lundberg

Breath of Spring, Erin Alonso, Bees Knees, Sandy Lundberg, Dancing Flame, Miss Flippins, Chelsea Bell

Top Gun National Mini-Flora Challenge

Mr. and Mrs. Eric Yount

Memphis King, Robin Alonso, Whirlaway, Ashton, Conundrum, Butter Bream, Foolish Pleasure, Shenandoah

Mini Queen - Fairhope - Sandy & Bob Lundberg

Mini King - Soroptimist International - Wade Brown

Mini Princess - Nancy Jean - Sandy & Bob Lundberg

Mini-Flora Queen - Conundrum - Sandy & Bob Lundberg

Mini-Flora King - First Choice - Joanna Deck

Mini Flora Princess - Memphis King - Joanna Deck

The Ralph Moore Miniature Arrangement Trophy

Bev Parish - Hot Tamale

The J. Benjamin Williams Mini-Flora Arrangement Trophy

Elizabeth Enochs - Memphis Music, Memphis Magic

ALL-AMERICA ROSE SELECTIONS

For the first time in 70 years, a shrub wins without any fungicide sprays; a mysteriously colored floribunda moves flower power to a new level; and a winning hybrid tea rose that benefits breast cancer awareness.

All-America Rose Selections' three new winning roses for 2009—'Carefree Spirit', 'Pink Promise', and 'Cinco de Mayo'—represent three different rose classes and will meet the needs of gardeners nationwide.



(Photo from *American Rose*)

'**Carefree Spirit**' was hybridized by Jacques Mouchette, director of research at Meilland International and introduced by Conard-Pyle Co of West Grove, PA.

This mounding rose produces deep red blossoms with white twinkles in their eyes; the blooms finish pink as they bask in the sun. 'Carefree Spirit' amplifies the disease resistance associated with its Carefree lineage, with more than 10 years of hybridizing improvement.

It is sure to be a winner for being easy to grow.

'**Pink Promise**', a graceful bloomer with long stems for cutting, will promise a garden is a stunning spectacle. This hybrid tea's beauty is enhanced by the contrast of its large pink blossoms set against lush dark green foliage. 'Pink Promise' has good disease resistance and flourishes even in cooler climates. A highly fragrant rose, 'Pink Promise' fill any room with a deliciously fruity scent. A percentage of the sales will be donated to the National Breast Cancer Foundation.

'Pink Promise' was hybridized by Jim Coiner and introduced by Coiner Nursery of LaVerne, CA.

(Photo from *American Rose*)



'**Cinco de Mayo**' brings fiesta of flowers to every garden. As an AARS winner, this floribunda has fantastic disease resistance and has performed exceptionally well across the country with little-to-no care. As an offspring of the 2006 AARS award-winning 'Julia Child' rose, 'Cinco de Mayo' enlivens any garden, and its clean, round habit is ideal for use as a hedge or in a border with mixed perennials.

'Cinco de Mayo' was hybridized by Tom Carruth and is introduced by Weeks Roses of Rancho Cucamonga, CA.
(Photo from Weeks Roses)



MINIATURE HALL OF FAME 2008 HONOREES

This is the tenth year of the "ARS Miniature Rose Hall of Fame." The award honors those miniatures that have stood the test of time for at least 20 years, recognizing excellence and longevity.



At the National Miniature Conference in Oklahoma City on May 31, 2008 two members of the Miniature Rose Hall of Fame were announced.

'Fairhope' (TALfairhope) (left) is a light pastel yellow miniature with good exhibition form and 16-28 petals. Parentage is 'Azure Sea' x unnamed seedling. 'Fairhope' was hybridized by Pete and Kay Taylor and introduced by Taylor's Roses in 1989.



'Irresistible' (TINresist) (right) is a white miniature with a pale pink center and greenish outer petals hybridized by Dee Bennett and introduced by Tiny Petals in 1989. It has

about 43 petals, very good exhibition form and a slightly upright plant. Parentage is 'Tiki' x 'Brian Lee'.

(Above photos from *American Rose*)

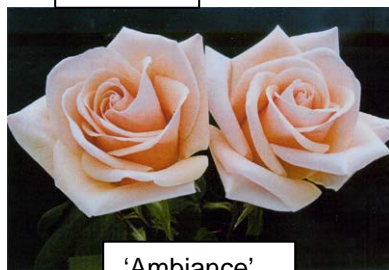
2009 AWARD OF EXCELLENCE WINNERS



'Deja Blu'

The Award of Excellence, a designation of Merit given to new miniature and Mini-Flora rose varieties of superior quality and marked distinction, was established by the American Rose Society Board of Directors 35 years ago. Since the inception of the award, there have been 106 AOE winners.

The official public announcement of the Award of Excellence winners is made each year at the awards banquet at the ARS National Miniature Rose Show and Conference. After two years of evaluation, three AOE winners were selected.



'Ambiance'

'Deja Blu' (BENwise) A mauve Mini-Flora by Frank Benardella, will be introduced by Nor'East Miniature Roses. It does equally well in the ground or in a favorite patio planter.

'Ambiance' (BENSiete) Another Mini-Flora by Frank Benardella. It is apricot and really catches the eye with its perfectly formed blooms. This rose should be a winner on the show table.



'Warm and Fuzzy'

'Warm and Fuzzy' (WEKhasamiro) was hybridized by Tom Carruth and will be introduced by Weeks Roses. This is a warm red, medium height miniature with a rounded to slightly spreading habit. The fuzzy buds have a strong sweet juniper fragrance when rubbed.

These are three good rose choices for your garden in 2009.

(Photos from *American Rose*)



Society Potpourri

LAST MONTH'S MEETING

Thanks to Isaac Smuin for a very informative program on organics. (If you have an interest in the concentrate Cedar Gard, contact Mary Bahn at 713-623-0200).

Thanks to Susan Kelly and Gaye Hammond for the delicious refreshments

Grand Prix Results:

Queen - *Veterans' Honor* - Jeniver Lauran
Best Open HT - *Veldfire* - Robin Hough
Best Fl. - *China Doll* - Robin Hough
Mini Queen - *Ty* - Robin Hough
Court - *Nemesis* - Robin Hough
 Checkmate - Jeniver Lauran
 Louisville Lady - Jeniver Lauran
 Rachel - Jeniver Lauran
Best Open Mini - *My Sunshine* - R. Hough
Best Mini Spray - *Elfinglo* - Robin Hough
Best OGR - *Green Rose* - Robin Hough
Best Novice - *Distant Drums* - Beth Schefe
Feature -Matched Pair - *Pope John Paul II* -
 Beth Schefe

Ice Cream Social and Vendor Fair

HRS will furnish the ice cream. You will furnish the toppings, cookies, brownies. Bring whatever you like and add it to the others and we will have a great party. July is always a fun evening. There will be no horticulture program. Bring roses to the Wacky Competition. This will not count toward the Grand Prix. It is strictly for fun.

Roses in Review

It is that time of year again. Take this opportunity to fill out the Roses In Review forms in the July/August issue of the *American Rose* magazine, or go online to www.ars.org, or to the HRS website www.houstonrose.org, and look for a hot button to the ARS website. RIR will not be up and running until after the 1st of July. Your input is greatly needed but only on the roses on the list which you currently grow. It is easy and fast. Robin Hough is our RIR Coordinator. His phone number is 281-482-8944.

HRS Events Calendar

Mark your calendar - updates made monthly

Jul 10 ■HRS Meeting - July Ice Cream Social

Aug 14 ■HRS Meeting

Oct 4 ■Consulting Rosarian School

Oct 25 ■HRS Rose Show

HRS to Host Consulting Rosarian School

The date is October 4, 2008 at South Main Baptist Church, Pasadena on Beltway 8 south. This school is for those who wish to become CRs (having met the criteria) and those who need to audit. Also, for you who just want to learn more about growing roses. Mark the date on your calendar now. More details in the future.

HRS to Have A Fall Rose Show

It's been a while since HRS has had a rose show. We have had problems finding a place for the event. Get your roses in shape now and you might have the queen of the show come October. The date is Saturday, October 25, 2008, and the location is also at South Main Baptist Church, Pasadena. Reserve this date on your calendar. It is a lot of work but we really enjoy it so it seems more like fun.

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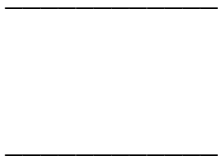


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Happy Fourth of July



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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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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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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
James Laperouse	NW	281-469-4056
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 Rosarians

Randall's Remarkable Card for HRS, # 5928