

THE ROSE ELLE



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Upcoming Events

Thurs, Aug 10 - Houston Rose Society meeting with Stephen Scanniello speaking. Houston Garden Center in Hermann Park at 7:30 pm. Free, the public is welcome.

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

Sat, Sept. 30, 9 - noon; Landscaping the Water-Wise Way. This is a free hand-on landscaping demonstration sponsored by Community Associations of The Woodlands, 8203 Millennium Forest Dr. For more info call 281/210-3900.

Thurs, Oct 12 - HRS regular meeting, 7:30 pm.

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

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

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

Jan 20, 2007 - EarthKind™ Seminar. First Baptist Church, Pasadena. Save the date!

INTERNATIONALLY ACCLAIMED OLD ROSE EXPERT TO SPEAK

Internationally recognized author and landscape designer, Stephen Scanniello, former curator of the Cranford Rose Garden at the Brooklyn Botanic Gardens, will speak on The Magic of Old Garden Roses at the August meeting, Thursday, August 10th, at 7:30 pm at the Houston Garden Center, 1500 Hermann Drive.

Mr. Scanniello is credited with transforming the Cranford Rose Garden into an internationally acclaimed rose garden. He has just published a new book, A Year of Roses. His other books include Climbing Roses; Rose Companions: Growing Annuals, Perennials, Bulbs, Shrubs, and Vines with Roses; and Easy Care Roses: Low-Maintenance Charmers, 1995. He is an engaging and popular speaker.

We will have copies of the new book for sale at the meeting and Scanniello will be glad to autograph them.

Spread the word about this meeting and invite a friend or two. We have a flier that you can mail or post at a local nursery in the back of the newsletter. Scanniello is a speaker who you will not generally see except at a convention. The public is invited and there is no charge to attend. For more information, call Gaye Hammond at 713-292-2760.

The Grand Prix resumes this month. The feature of the month is a Standard or Miniature arrangement. Names of roses and type of arrangement (Line, Mass, Abstract, Moribana, etc.) must be on entry tag. If want to try exhibiting, this is a good baby step. You can show three times before our big show in October. There is a special class for novices and if you arrive at 6:30 someone will be glad to help you get your roses ready. The show schedule is on the website at www.Houston.rose.org.

AUGUST 2006

AUGUST ROSE CARE

August is a challenge for roses and rosarians. Remember that you and your roses need plenty of water. And just because it rained three inches last week, doesn't mean that your roses don't need water this week. Their roots like to be moist. A three - inch layer of mulch helps, and by now, your mulch might not be that thick. Replenish it.

Your roses are stressed, which means they are more subject to insect and fungus problems. Keep a close eye out for problems. This means looking at your plant up close and personal - not admiring it from afar.

Be sure of what the problem is before you go treating it. Look at both sides of the leaf, check the plant and maybe even get a magnifying glass out. I was sure I had a fungus on my purple Wandering Jew groundcover, but when I showed it to a pro, he looked at it closely and found a tiny worm inside the leaf. You might have to look at night to find out what is eating leaves.

When you decide what the problem is, decide if you are going to treat it, and then look for the least toxic method. For example, spider mites can be treated by interrupting their life cycle by blasting them off the underside of the leaf with a strong jet of water.

Read your label to be sure you are using a product that is labeled for your pest and that you are using the correct amount. More is not better!

Consulting rosarians are available by phone to help you with problems and are on hand at meetings.

Keep up your spray program. Remember that most fungicides prevent, but do not kill blackspot. If you have blackspot, add Mancozeb, and spray every three to five days until no new blackspot shows up. Nothing cures blackspot.

If you find a rose bush at the nursery that looks good, buy it. It is obviously a survivor.

Do keep your bushes deadheaded. It keeps them from going dormant and eliminates places for disease to hang out.

Your blooms will be small because of the heat. More fertilizer will not make them bigger right now. If you have been feeding your roses regularly, keep it up, perhaps with a half strength solution. If you have not, and your roses are looking sickly, try a water soluble fertilizer mixed half strength.

Toward the end of August, you may prune your bushes to shape them up and keep them in bounds. This is not a hard pruning - think of the difference between a haircut and a trim. You should always remove dead branches and crossing canes when you see them.

In honor of hurricane season, I'm trying to keep my yard clear of small objects that will have to be picked up in the event of a hurricane. If you have tall bushes on *fortuniana* rootstock, be sure they are staked securely.

A conservation-minded friend in Austin sent the material below to me recently. A lot of it applies to us too. More than 100 Texas cities have declared water use restrictions this summer due to ongoing drought.

Austin Water Utility plans for future water treatment plants based on projections for peak-day water use – that's the single highest-use day of the year. Peak days are driven almost entirely by landscape irrigation. If we aren't smart about our outdoor water use, we as a community have to spend hundreds of millions of dollars for new treatment plants sooner than we would otherwise have to.

[Water conservation} will also play an important role in reducing pollution. It takes a lot of energy to treat and pump water. So, every gallon saved means a reduction in smog-forming emissions from power plants. Likewise, reducing irrigation runoff and

switching to waterwise landscaping materials reduces the amount of chemical fertilizers and pesticides that end up in our waterways.

5-Day Watering Schedules (grass)

If you have an automatic irrigation system, you may be watering more frequently than is necessary. Not only does this drive up your water bill, it causes grass roots not to grow to their maximum depth because they are receiving a very regular watering at the surface of the soil. Instead, Austin Water Conservation (AWC) recommends thoroughly saturating the soil with deep, less-frequent watering, which causes the roots grow deeper to reach as much of the available water as possible. Set your irrigation controller to take two passes at each zone, so water from the first pass will have time to sink in before the next pass comes around. Check out the AWC website to see where you fall on our recommended 5-day watering schedule and to find out how much you need to water based on recent weather conditions (www.waterwiseaustin.org).

Irrigation Evaluations

Convenient as they are, underground irrigation systems often waste water unless they are well maintained and tuned to maximum efficiency. Irrigation professionals evaluate irrigation systems for proper spray head adjustment, controller scheduling, and other factors, and recommend improvements to the system. Residential customers who follow recommended watering schedules can save thousands of gallons per month.

Rainwater Harvesting

Plants love natural rainwater, and there are several ways you can harvest this for your yard and gardening needs. You can buy rain barrels and placed them under downspouts to collect rainwater.

Water Waste

A lot of people don't really think about wasting water, but if we were in Austin, these conditions would be violations of the Austin water-waste ordinance:

Failing to repair a controllable leak including a broken sprinkler head, a leaking valve, or a leaking faucet;

Operating a permanently installed irrigation system with a broken head, a poorly-adjusted head that sprays pavement or street, or a head that is misting due to high water pressure

During irrigation allowing water to run off a property causing a trail of at least 50 feet, or allowing water to pond in the street or parking lot to a depth greater than ¼ inch.

ROSES IN REVIEW

It is Roses in Review time. This is a report about new cultivars that have been in commerce for two, three or four years. These reports provide the data for the ARS Guide to Selecting Roses. In February, we publish the results from this area in the Rose-ette. Forms were in the ARS magazine and are on the web site, www.ars.org. Even if you only grow one of the varieties listed, your input is valuable. Consulting rosarians should submit a report. You do not have to be an ARS member to report and you do not have to be an expert.

CHEMICAL SALE

Our product order sheet will be in next month's newsletter. Take inventory of your chemicals and fertilizers, and be prepared to place your order when you receive the September newsletter. Prices are well worth your attention. There will be a deadline for orders to be turned in, and a pickup date listed in the order form.

This is a service that we offer to our members. You MUST agree to pick up your order on the day stated in the order form. No orders will be mailed or saved for you. If you cannot be there, it is your responsibility to find someone to pick up your order for you. We hope that you will find this is worth your while.

Patsy Williams, Product Chair.

China Roses: The Rose That Began a Cultural Revolution

By Rhea Worrell

Rhea Worrell is a cyber-rosarian living in North Carolina. She is an avid gardener and an author of many fine articles on old garden roses. This is from the ARS website.

Unlike *R. gallica*, *R. centifolia* and *R. damascena*, the first China roses brought to Britain were not species, but old, established hybrids. Those four forever changed the face of rose hybridizing in the West. They were: Slater's Crimson China in 1792, Parson's Pink China / Old Blush in 1793, Hume's Blush in 1809 and Park's Yellow Tea-Scented China in 1824.

China roses are all repeat flowering in varying degrees. They begin flowering in early spring and will continue until frost. In very mild climates (Zones 8, 9 and 10) they will flower through fall and into winter and are nearly evergreen. Whether they are considered perpetual, repeat, recurrent or remontant, it is the capacity for continuous bloom that defines the class.

Chinas have an entirely different look than the roses previously introduced to European hybridizers. They have smooth surfaced mid-to dark green foliage, with touches of purple, dark red or bronze in their canes, leaves and new growth. They have fewer thorns than the old roses of Europe. And, unlike the European roses, their petal colors intensify rather than fade over time. Slater's Crimson, one of the original Chinas to reach Europe, brought in its genes a rich, deep, dark red without the predominant crimson or magenta undertone found in the Gallicas. Hence Crimson Glory, Don Juan, Guinee, Mister Lincoln, Souvenir du Dr. Jamain and General Jacqueminot. Another of the original Chinas, Park's Yellow, brought with it the thicker, waxier petals so common in today's Hybrid Teas, along with its yellow tints and tea scent.

The characteristics mentioned above -- recurrency, sparse dark green and purple foliage, blooms of deep red and bright yellow and heavy scrolling petals -- coalesced to present a Pandora's Box to rose hybridizers in the early 1800s. The China Revolution changed the face of rose appreciation because it introduced new standards of beauty. Was the influence beneficent? This is still a heavily debated issue among rosarians. Perhaps it is a matter of degree. The China influence is evident in many and varied classes of roses, including Portlands, Bourbons, Hybrid Perpetuals, Noisettes, Miniatures and Hybrid Teas.

According to Graham Thomas: "The China roses came in from 1800 on.... These have given rise to the hybrid teas, the bourbons and floribundas, all perpetual flowers. But they're weaker growers, with little scent."

Growing Chinas

Apart from their repeat flowering, Chinas are not particularly notable as a class. As a group they are noticeably smaller and less vigorous than their Mideastern, European and American cousins. Most have fewer petals and have a looser, even ragged-looking bloom, which is more than compensated by their luminous, color-washed petals. Theirs is a casual, understated appeal.

As a whole, the Chinas need better soil than the earlier roses. They are less hardy by far. Their range is limited: Zone 7 to Zone 10, with a few exceptions. They have a sparse, twiggy habit and require a sheltered spot. Their size is often dictated by climate. Ideally situated in Zone 6, an Old Blush may reach only 3 feet, whereas in Zone 10, it may reach 6 or 7 feet. On the plus side, Chinas are exceptionally heat- and drought-tolerant. Even if they freeze to the ground, they will grow back if grown on their own roots. Chinas are unsuitable for uses that will expose them to

excess wind, rain, or abuse. Because of their delicacy, they are best placed within a mixed border or in containers.

Best Bets

Archduke Charles. Possessing a sweet, fruity scent, its full loose blooms of deep pink age to crimson. According to Liz Druitt, the Archduke is best in fall and spring and is better for cutting than most Chinas. 4 feet.

Comtesse du Cayla. Each bloom has varying tints. Apricot, buff, crimson and copper blend in each loosely cupped, silky, single bloom. Flower buds are coral. The lovely petals are further enhanced by a sweet, fruity scent. Comtesse's new growth and canes are a clear burgundy. She is vigorous, disease-resistant and well rounded, with a long blooming season. 3 ft.

Cramoisie Superieure: This rose offers small, clustered, cupped, crimson blooms en masse on a bush 3 feet high. There is a sweet fruity fragrance. A climbing sport is available.

Ducher. Its large, pure white, cabbagey cups have a delicious scent. The only white China.

Hermosa. The very full, globular blooms of Hermosa look like those of a Centifolia or Bourbon and emit a similarly strong sweet fragrance. Hermosa forms a petite bush of 3 feet. There is a climbing sport.

Louis Philippe is a tall, angular bush. Its deep burgundy blooms give out a rich, delicious cherry perfume. It resembles Cramoisie Superieure with which it is sometimes confused. It is constantly in bloom and is very easily grown. Louis is popular shrub throughout the South -- and for good reason.

Mme. Laurette Messimy. Its peachy pink / apricot blooms deliver a luscious, fruity fragrance.

Mutabilis/ Tipo Ideale

/Rosa turkestanica /Butterfly Rose. An excellent and deservedly popular garden shrub, noted for its floating single petals of silken texture, which change hues as they age. They start as copper buds, progressing to a peachy yellow, to coral, then finally to crimson. Varied colors

appear concurrently. Dark green foliage with bronzy-purple new growth forms a backdrop. Mutabilis may reach 8 feet if sheltered, but its usual size is about 4 feet. A classic old rose. Needs a sunny, sheltered spot.

Old Blush / Monthly Rose. One of the all-time favorite roses, Old Blush is a twiggy but robust rose, with masses of loose, double shell pink flowers. May bloom all year long; only frost can stop it. It produces several crops of large orange hips, which Liz Druitt has found to be especially tasty. Attains a height of 4 feet (or more, depending on climate). It has few thorns, is disease- and pest-resistant and is easy to grow, tolerating shade, poor soil and drought. There is a climbing sport.

Rouletti. The first of the modern miniature roses.

Slater's Crimson China. Its globular, cabbagey blooms own a lovely lemon scent. Slater's Crimson China is unusually bushy and vigorous for a China rose.

Sources

Austin, David. Old Roses and English Roses. Woodbridge, Suffolk, UK: Antique Collector's Club, 1992.

Druitt, Liz. The Organic Rose Garden. Dallas: Taylor, 1996

Raver, Anne. "So the Roses May Bloom Forever." NY Times, July 17, 1997.

Yea You!

The following authors won Award of Merit certificates for their article(s) relating to roses and rose culture, published in district or local rose society newsletters. Congratulations!

Jim Boden, "Fighting Fungus"

Donald Ray Burger, "Intro to Digital Photography": Series

Gaye Hammond, "Gifts From the Master: The Legacy of Dr. Griffith Buck"

Patsy Williams, "A Pruning Primer"

ARS REPORT

From Baxter Williams

Dear Rose Society Member,

In the course of my role as ARS Membership Chair, and most recently while in attendance at the ARS Convention in Seattle, I have been involved in several discussions concerning ARS member numbers. It has been evident from the numbers recently presented that our roll is slowly declining, has been doing so for several years, and underwent a significant step-change downward early this year. Whether that drop was the result of the hurricanes on the Gulf Coast having wiped out house and garden and employment of some members, or by non-renewals of Rose Day America-members, the cause is immaterial, and we need to bring in new members to offset that loss.

It should be apparent to us that persons who already have an interest in growing roses would be the easiest to gain as new members. Those people already exist as non-ARS members of local rose societies. We need to market our membership directly to them.

In a frank exchange of information on two of the three tour buses that weekend, we discussed the property in Shreveport, Louisiana, that we - as members - own as our home and headquarters, and have every reason to be proud of as our American Rose Center and its Gardens. Not only have we maintained and improved the gardens, which is one way we present roses to the public, but we have built a new \$2+ million Education and Visitor Center that is debt free and is earning money for us and is helping to pay ARS administrative costs, a fact which has been true for many years. Many of them seemed surprised of that fact, thinking that a lot of their dues money was being used to keep the ARC running – which is not the case.

Not only does the property we own earn money for the organization through garden visitor fees, Klima Rose Hall and Chapel rentals, timber sales, and through Christmas in Roseland and other events, but it also provides administrative offices for the Society. We are assured of perpetual income as the property is supported by an endowment of over \$4.5 million. These funds represent gifts by Shreveport supporters of the American Rose Center, and by gifts from our members.

Also several seemed surprised to learn that the ARS has paid off all of its debts except for some of the funds we borrowed from a Shreveport bank. We are approaching “debt-free” status.

I asked those Rosarians on the buses to be positive leaders in their societies, to say complimentary things about the ARS and its leaders and its staff, and about the ARC, and to refrain from any negative comments. Everyone wants to be on a winning team, and you, as “coach” in your Society, are charged with inspiring members.

Your ARS Membership Committee presented a suggestion that a “Family Membership” category be established, and we will polish that concept and bring it back to the ARS Board for approval. We continue to suggest gift membership as a new member gathering process.

Check out these facts:

1. We will, I hope, soon have a new ARS Membership Director on our Staff, one with an aggressive member-gathering attitude and experience proven by success.
2. We are effectively out of debt.
3. Our ARC more than pays for itself.
4. Our new Executive Director is savvy, suave, sensible, self-starting and is fully intent on causing our success.
5. Our President is driven to cause ARS success and growth.

6. Our Staff is knowledgeable and lean.
7. Our Board of Directors is intelligent and capable.
8. Our Membership is ready to be inspired and to be led forward.
9. Everyone loves roses.
10. Many, many people grow roses and have not yet discovered the American Rose Society. We need to discover them.

All of these things are positive. If you have any questions about any of them, E-mail to me at baxpat@wave3online.com .

Yours in roses,
 Baxter Williams, Membership Chair
 American Rose Society
 713-944-3437 home
 281-850-2067 cell

LOCAL NEWS

Long time HRS member and former Bronzes Medal Recipient, Sid Shackelford has reduced the size of his garden in Katy and no longer needs his 5 gallon Spot Shot Sprayer. Sid will give it to any HRS member that can use it. It will need a new battery, other than that is it ready to go.

Sid and Phyllis can be reached at 281-391-9637 for information and directions.

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.

NEWSLETTER ON-LINE

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. 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. **WE WILL CONTINUE TO MAIL THE NEWSLETTER UNLESS YOU REQUEST OTHERWISE.**

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 dues to:

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Articles and news always welcome



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