

# THE ROSE ELLE



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

## Upcoming Events

Whoops - last month many October events listed as November events. This issue has the correct dates.

10/7 - "Cooling Down the Garden - Plants from Fall through Spring", 10 am, ArborGate Nursery. Call 281/351-8851 for more info. ArborGate is having great programs all month long. See [www.arbortgate.com](http://www.arbortgate.com) for the list.

10//11 - 13 - Heritage Rose Foundation Conference, Dallas

10/12 - HRS meeting, 7:30 pm, Houston Garden Center (across from Miller Theater, Hermann Park. Mary Fulgham will be the Consulting Rosarian.

10/13/-16 - ARS National Convention, Dallas

10/14 - Chemical Sale Order Deadline

10/21- San Antonio Rose Show

10/26 - 29 HRS display and Rose Show at Texas Home and Garden Show, Reliant Center. See Page 3 for details.

10/28 - HRS rose show at Texas Home and Garden Show. Exhibitors may arrive at 6 am.

11/3-5 - Antique Rose Emporium (Brenham) Festival of Roses  
Contact: 979-836-

11/9 - HRS meeting, Patsy Williams on Miniature Roses

12/14 - HRS officer installation and dinner party, Houston Garden Center

Jan 20, 2007 - EarthKind™ Seminar, South Main Baptist Church, Pasadena

## Water Gardening in Small Places

*From Maria Trevino, program chair*

Lack of space is a constant problem for gardeners of all types, including rosarians. We know, in our heads, that a well-appointed garden includes many elements. And water--as in ponds and fountains--is one of the most important aspects of garden design. Still, few of us have the space required for a koi or goldfish pond. Of course, that's because that space is planted with roses! But our speaker for October has a solution.

John Howell runs Countryside Water Gardens in Needville. Countryside is just across the street from the Vintage Rosery. You may have met John at our July 4th Ice Cream Social. Now is your chance to hear him speak about Container Water Gardening.

Water features come in all sizes, and John will show us how to incorporate such features into our existing gardens and patios with minimal use of space. When the sound of water is added to the color and scent of roses, garden perfection is achieved. Container water gardens are easily within the skill level of all "do it yourselfers." Join us on Thursday, October 12, to learn how to add both the sound and beauty of a small water feature to your garden. Both you and visitors to your garden will appreciate the added dimensions water can give even when space is limited. The program is free and guests are welcome.

The Grand Prix feature of the month is Hybrid Tea/Grandiflora Bouquet, 7 or more roses, any variety or combination of varieties, one bloom per stem, no side bud(s), in container furnished by exhibitor. If want to try exhibiting, this is a good baby step. There is a special entry category 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](http://www.Houston.rose.org).

## October 2006

# October Rose Care

Roses will need less water, as it cools down, but not yet.

Keep up your spray program.

You should have stopped using dry products by now. They must be dissolved in water for (chemical fertilizers) or be digested by soil organisms (organics) before the plant can use the nutrients, and this can take a while. You may use water-soluble products until mid October, but stop after that. You don't want to encourage new growth.

If you want to show roses, give them a boost about two weeks before the show. Different exhibitors have different brews. If you are new, choose ONE of those suggested.

Nutrient deficiencies will show up in your leaves. A consulting rosarian can help you, but here is a short guide.

Iron deficiency (chlorosis) is shown by new leaves and shoots that are light yellow green to white with darker green veins showing.

Magnesium deficiency manifests with leaves that are pale and yellow in the center with dead areas close to the middle of the leaf. Oldest leaves are the first affected. Leaves fall off the plant early.

Nitrogen deficiency affects young leaves first. They will be small and pale green. Veins are a lighter yellow color. Compare to iron deficiency.

Roses short in Nitrogen are most likely to also be short in other nutrients as well.

Potassium shortage shows up as brown brittle edges at the edges of mature leaves. Mature leaves stay green, but new leaves are red and don't turn green. The chemical symbol for Potassium is K. the

Phosphorous shortage is unlikely here. Young leaves grow small and are very dark green. There is a **purplish tint on the underside of the leaves** near the center.

The plant will not bloom and the bush appears stunted and will not get bigger. For more information, see <http://www.rose-roses.com/problems/mineraldeficiency.html>

If your roses are showing signs of deficiency, fertilize them now with a water-soluble product. The Houston Rose Society's fertilizer is a great product that has everything your rose needs. Then have a soil test in December.

Inventory your products and get ready for next year by ordering chemicals now. There are a lot of useful products, chemical and organic both. You can order a 2007 ARS Handbook for Selecting Roses, too. The form is in the September Rose-ette.

## *PLANTING ROSES IN OCTOBER?*

Potted roses may be planted now, and, in our climate, might even do better than ones planted in February. Many nurseries pot their own bare-root roses, but bare-root roses are just now being harvested, so the February planting time has a lot to do with when the most roses are available. Some nurseries have new stock and others have the bushes that were potted up at the first of the year. If the rose is healthy, give it a try. Plant the same way you do in the spring. Pay attention to the watering.

## SERVING YOUR SOCIETY

The 2006 Nominating Committee is hard at work to secure another exemplary slate of officers for 2007. The committee, headed up by Donald Burger, welcomes your suggestions of members willing to serve in this important role. If you are interested in serving or wish to offer suggestions to fill specific positions, please contact Donald in the evenings at 713/861-5412 or by e-mail at [burger@burger.com](mailto:burger@burger.com). Also serving on the committee is Robin Hough, Galt Morgan, Deanna Krause and Susan Kelly. A big "thank you" to all for accepting responsibility for this important job!

# EXHIBITING ROSES IS FUN

## (and so is going to rose shows)

*By Stacey Catron, Eatontown, New Jersey*

(Editor's Note – This has been shortened a bit. It was most recently published in the Santa Clarita Valley Rose Society's October Newsletter. It won an award of merit and was published in the 2005 Rose Exhibitors Forum.

Check out the Santa Clarita web site at [www.scvrs.homestead.com](http://www.scvrs.homestead.com) as well as the ARS website at [www.ars.org](http://www.ars.org) for more helpful articles.)

**Now**, if you already know how to manipulate your 5" wide hybrid tea bloom with Q-tips atop a 22" stem, have all the latest exhibition roses and are a seasoned exhibitor or rose show judge, skip to the next article as I want to convince everyone else that exhibiting roses IS fun!

OK, I know you don't believe me. Why would anyone want to get up at 5:00 a.m., drive 100 miles to enter a show with hardcore exhibitors? Because it's fun.

Because a rose show is filled with roses! All sizes and varieties! Such a sight to behold. It is fun to walk through the aisles, looking at the roses that you've only seen in catalogs or on the internet, checking out the size and color, sticking your nose in it to see if it is fragrant. Sometimes, you'll be lucky enough to see the person who exhibited it and can ask them questions about it, how it grows for them. Getting knowledge of a rose from a local rosarian is invaluable!

Because a rose show is filled with rosarians! People like you who love roses. After their entries are in (and sometimes while they are prepping them) most exhibitors love to talk about their roses!

There is no stress by entering another society's rose show as hardly no one will know you and you won't feel obligated to

help out or worry about what needs to be done. You can just enjoy the show!

You grow good roses, don't you? Of course you do. Do the blooms please you as they open in your garden? If they please you, they will please the public viewing the show.

I've watched the public experiencing the show. They love to see roses of all sizes, shapes and colors. It is fun to watch people sniff the different roses in the fragrance category. If the roses please you and the public, then they will probably even please the judges.

Do you cut your roses to bring inside when you have company in the summer or do you share a bouquet with friends or family? If so, then you are already informally exhibiting your roses.

You don't need to bring a lot of roses to the show. My first show I entered two blooms.

You don't need to bring "show roses" to the show. Typically there is a category for every type of rose in the show.

You will have to know what roses you have, the name of the variety (i.e. 'Simplicity', 'Double Delight', 'Blaze'...), the rose category (floribunda, hybrid tea, climber...) and color class (medium pink, red blend, medium red...). If you know the name, the rest is easy to find by looking in the ARS "Handbook for Selecting Roses."

Look for the novice classes in the rose show program. Try to enter your roses in the novice classes if you and your roses meet the criteria for that category.

Look in your garden for roses that you could enter. What looks nice? I suggest cutting roses that are somewhere past bud stage and 1/2 open. You will want to cut long stems and keep the foliage on. Large roses

like hybrid teas, larger Austin-style blooms, floribunda sprays should be on 17-20" stems. Miniatures should have 5-7" stems. Mini-floras should be on 7-9" stems. If your stems are not that long, cut what you can

If you have a beautiful bloom with not much stem bring it too, as there are other categories such as rose in a bowl, rose in a picture frame, or rose palette. (See the article in the July rosette – it's on the website) If you have a rose with great fragrance, but poor stem and/or foliage, cut it and enter it in the fragrance class.

You do need to bring "fresh" roses. "Fresh" looks good and will win ribbons. Fresh roses look like they were just picked from the bush. Of course, the morning of the show, you can peruse your garden and pick what looks good then, put it in a bucket of water, then drive to the rose show so that you will enter "fresh" roses. Of course, this is not always possible. The weather and your roses are unpredictable. You can cut roses as early as the Wednesday before our Saturday show by storing the roses in the refrigerator. To do this, start by bringing a bucket of water into the garden with you. Cut the rose stem and immediately put it into the bucket of water and continue putting as many roses in as needed. Bring the roses inside. Pour water into the kitchen sink and cut the stems once again, this time under water slightly up from the original cut. If you are ambitious, now is the time to clean the leaves of spray residue (a cotton dishtowel works well). Put the roses into a container with water in it. For large roses, I use 1/2-gallon orange juice containers. If you want you can use a packet of floral preservative (the kind that comes with florist's arrangements) or a homemade formula (1 gallon water, 12 oz. can clear non-diet soda, 1 T bleach) as the liquid to store the roses in. If you have a frost-free refrigerator make sure you lightly cover the blooms with a plastic bag, but be sure to flip the bags inside out and put back on the blooms every day. This will keep the condensation off of the petals.

The day of the show, arrive early.

Avoid looking at anyone else's roses. You will always think they look better than what you brought. (I still do this and avoid setting up near the best exhibitors.) Gather vases and entry tags. Put your roses in the vases full of water, and stuff wedging material (check show schedule for approved materials) around the stem to make the bloom more upright, if needed. Fill out an entry tag for each rose you are entering. Refer to the show schedule for class number. Fold the tag over and tuck the end into the cut out flap, and then place the entry tag on the vase. When you are through with your entries, take them to the placement table.

Once you've entered all your roses, it is time to sit back and wait. Clean up your area, go get something to eat or drink, or better yet, see if they need anyone to clerk (judges' assistant). Clerking requires little or no experience and you get to see the judging process first hand. Make sure you come back soon after the judging to see your results and the other winners! Once you see your first ribbon, you'll be hooked! Give it a try and good luck!!!

(By the way, my first rose show I won a 3rd place ribbon for 'Red Simplicity'. I've gone on to win a few more awards since then.)

#### SOME EXHIBITING TERMS

Exhibition bloom: the optimum degree of beauty of a rose. For most roses, such as hybrid teas, miniatures, some floribundas, classic exhibition form is 1/2 to 2/3 open, symmetrically spiraled petals viewed from the top and triangular when viewed from the side, tight center petals not revealing any stamens. For single roses (Dainty Bess, Altissimo, Playgirl, etc.), the bloom is fully open with brightly-colored (not brown) stamens showing. For David Austin-style shrubs and OGRs, the bloom will be almost fully pen.

Open bloom: fully opened bloom with stamens showing. Stamens should be fresh,

either bright yellow or red. Petals should be pulled back so that you can see the stamens clearly

Spray: two (although three or more looks better) or more blooms (not buds) on one stem. Symmetry is important from the top and the side. Blooms can be differing degrees of openness.

## **MORE ROSE SHOW TIPS**

### ***From Ed Bradley, San Antonio***

Entering roses in a Rose Show need not be an intimidating experience. We want to encourage new members to be new exhibitors and there is a special Novice category of entries where the first-time or less experienced exhibitors can compete at the appropriate level. Novice exhibitors may also enter classes outside of the Novice category.

Get some clean buckets or containers to store your roses in. Most exhibitors use 3 to 5 gallon plastic buckets. Clean them with bleach. Do not use metal.

Make room in the refrigerator to hold some roses.

Review the Show Schedule (generally on the host society's web site –see [www.houstonrose.org](http://www.houstonrose.org)) and decide which classes you may like to enter; i.e., single specimen, open bloom (HT or Mini or both), rose-in-a-bowl, etc. Some of the classes are very easy and uncomplicated, which may make them more attractive to the inexperienced exhibitor.

Get some entry tags at the October meeting. Portions can be completed in advance to save time on the morning of the Show.

Sharpen your shears. Crushed stems block tiny stem vessels that transport water to the bloom, causing early wilting and tissue decay. Cut stems as long as possible, but not below the origin of the current growth. Keep all of the foliage on the stem, except maybe the last leaf

Cut the blooms in the early morning (8 – 10 a.m.), as they are more turgid from taking up moisture during the night. Cut stems at an angle to maximize tissue surface exposed to the solution.

Remove any foliage that will be below the water level for an extended

Place stems into water (or a conditioning solution) at “garden temperature”. Do not place in cold water immediately.

Use a preservative. Commonly used professional hydrating solutions include Chrysal (#1, #2, or Clear) and Floralife. These may be powder or liquid and are generally available at garden centers or florist shops.

Move roses to a cool, dark place for 30 to 60 minutes for the conditioning period. • To harden roses, place in a cooler as close to 36 degrees, as possible.

Use flower/foilage tubes to avoid damage to leaves and blooms.

If flowers are used for home bouquets, use fresh water every three days, and re-cut the stems about one-half inch.

### ***From Kitty Belendez, Santa Clarita Valley Rose Society***

Your roses should be getting ready to bloom for the rose shows. Here are some basics for successfully exhibiting your roses.

Read the Show Schedule – It's very important to get an advance copy of the show schedule, and read it thoroughly before you go. It helps to highlight the classes you will be entering with a colored marker.

Prepare Your Grooming Kit – You will need the following tools: Q-tips, ballpoint pen, entry tags, paper towels, tweezers, sable brush, cuticle scissors, regular scissors, rose cutters, stem stripper, your name & address labels. Put all these things together into a little tool kit, and keep them ready for every show.

Groom Your Roses – Clean the foliage with a damp cloth, primp the bloom, and remove unwanted growth. It's all right to remove damaged petals, and trim foliage, but you will be disqualified if you add anything. Never apply oil or ink to the leaves.

## **TWO NEW ROSES MAKE THE EARTHKIND™ LIST**

At last month's Texas Nursery & Landscape Conference, Dr. Steve George, head of Texas Cooperative Extension's EarthKind™ Rose Research Project announced the designation of two new EarthKind™ Roses -- Ducher and Georgetown Tea.

Ducher is a China rose introduced in 1869 produces double ivory white blooms having a tea and fruity fragrance. The average bush size ranges between 3 to 5 feet high and 3 feet wide. Because of its compact size, this makes an excellent rose to grow in a container. This cultivar is hardy in Zones 7 to 11.

Georgetown Tea is a rose that was "found" by Dr. William Welch in Georgetown Texas. It produces dark salmon pink blooms with a strong tea fragrance on an upright bushy plant. The average bush size is 3 to 5 feet high and 4 feet wide and is hardy in Zones 7 to 9. Both roses are repeat bloomers throughout the growing season.

With the introduction of Ducher and Georgetown Tea, 15 roses now comprise the list of EarthKind™ Roses. These newest additions join Belinda's Dream, Caldwell Pink, Carefree Beauty, Climbing Pinkie, Else Poulsen, Knock Out, Marie Daly, Mutabilis, Perle d'Or, Sea Foam, Spice and The Fairy to comprise an excellent collection of landscape roses that have been scientifically proven to grow with almost no human care.

The EarthKind™ Rose Research Program has been made possible through a grant from the Houston Rose Society.

The Houston Rose show has a special class for EarthKind roses™. Remember that some of these roses (and any other rose) must be shown under another name. For example, Caldwell Pink, which won the very first EarthKind™ award, was, thanks to timely intervention by Robin Hough, shown under the correct name, Pink Pet. Otherwise novice exhibitor Donald Burger would have been disqualified.

## **AARS Winners for 2007**

Three roses, Rainbow Knockout, Moondance and Strike it Rich, were named All America Rose Selections this year.

Even more floriferous and disease-resistant than its famous parent, Rainbow Knock Out is a bushy and compact landscape shrub rose with short stems bearing glossy, dark green leaves. Its blooms are single-form flowers that start out as pointed buds and appear abundantly throughout the growing season. The delicate five-petaled flowers are two inches in diameter and are a deep coral-pink color with a yellow center finishing nicely to light coral.

Rainbow Knock Out will have a nice display of blooms late into the season for a lovely fall bloom, and while it does not exhibit a strong fragrance, the petals emit a delicate sweetbriar scent. Suitable for container growing in small spaces, this rose is the perfect accent to any garden. It is also winter hardy to zone 4 and is fully resistant to black spot, mildew and rust. Rainbow Knock Out is hybridized by William Radler and is introduced by The Conard Pyle Co.

As ethereal and lovely as its name implies, Moondance is a floribunda characterized by large trusses of creamy white, beautifully formed flowers contrasted by very glossy dark green foliage. Upright and well branched, it is an extremely vigorous and tall plant with stems that are typically 14-18 inches long. Rose buds are pointed and oval-shaped in form leading to high-centered flowers, which open flat to about 3½ -inches

in diameter and consist of approximately 25 petals each.

Moondance has an exceptionally delightful spicy fragrance for a white floribunda. In addition, its impressive long stems can also be arranged into an elegant bouquet for displaying in the home. Moondance is highly resistant to black spot, mildew and rust.

Moondance is hybridized by Keith Zary and introduced by Jackson & Perkins of Medford, Ore.

A modern version of the classic 1950 AARS award-winner Sutter's Gold, Strike It Rich resembles its famous ancestor with strong spicy fragrance and elegant buds of deep golden-yellow swirled with ruby red. Yet this contemporary cousin is much easier to grow because of its great disease-resistance and strong natural vigor. This true grandiflora bears loads of long-stemmed blossoms offset by very dark green leaves and unusual deep red stems.

A medium-tall upright bush, Strike It Rich boasts clusters of voluptuous double and informal flowers that are up to 5-inches in diameter with approximately 30 petals each. The flowers are long-lived and retain their blend of gold, orange and red tones to the very end. The blooms are stunning in a bouquet or in the landscape.

Strike It Rich is hybridized by Tom Carruth and introduced by Weeks Roses of Upland, CA.

All-America Rose Selections is a nonprofit association of growers dedicated to the introduction and promotion of exceptional roses. The AARS trial program was started in 1938. AARS Winners are labeled with the AARS red rose as a seal of approval, and to distinguish them from other plants in the nursery. Today, the AARS program is one of the most successful and highly regarded of its kind, having brought to the forefront such roses as Peace, Mister Lincoln, Knock Out and Bonica.

## **New Orleans Old Garden Rose Society Restoration**

*By Sandra Smith*

The Texas Rose Rustlers "restore New Orleans" plant project, began by Candy Fite, TRR Editor, last spring, has blossomed.

I will transport the donations from TRR to New Orleans and, in the tradition of the Rustlers, hold a rose lotto at their meeting on November 7. Some members lost all their roses, some lost half, and some lost only a few. Peggy Martin of the OGRS has informed me that they would appreciate any plants, not just roses, as some members have lost everything.

There will be 50+ members in attendance. Currently we have about 50 roses between the spring TRR donations and my rooted cuttings. I would like to double that number.

I also plan to bring bags of cuttings. A "propagation committee" has been set up to distribute the cuttings.

If any HRS member has anything to donate, you have several options:

Bring them to the HRS meeting in Houston on October 12 or the Texas Rose Rustler meeting in Tyler on October 14.

Contact Donna Martin in Katy (phone 281-855-8119, email martin@utlx.com).

Call Sandra Smith in Houston, Beltway 8 @ Clay Rd. or Coldspring (cell 832-758-2897, email rosavista@ev1.net).

Please wrap the cuttings (no patented roses) in damp paper towels and place in well-labeled Ziplocs. I will keep them refrigerated. If you don't have plants that you can share or any roses that you have rooted, how about empty pots to replace those that members have donated.



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Fabulous Rose Show  
At HOUSTON HOME AND GARDEN SHOW  
OCT 27 TO 29

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

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**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
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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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[baxpat@wave3online.com](mailto:baxpat@wave3online.com)

**NOTE:**  
**Send address changes to this address.**  
HRS mails bulk-rate and **it is NOT forwarded.**

# All Hands On Deck

We need **your** help for the Fall Rose Festival at the Texas Home and Garden Show at Reliant Arena, October 27-29, 2006. This event combines our fall rose show and bloom sale with a membership and information table at a major home and garden show.

**This is an unprecedented chance to show how beautiful roses can be, give gardeners advice about successful rose growing, and recruit new members. We have been given a wonderful space near the front door and concession area. Thousands of visitors, who have paid to get information about how to make their homes more beautiful, will come by the booth. We hope to be invited back next year, so we need lots of helpers to make the event a success.**

Garden Show hours are Friday, Oct 27, from 2-8 pm; Saturday, Oct 28, from 11 am-8 pm, and Sunday, Oct 29, from 1 am-6 pm. The Rose show will be Saturday, with the venue opening for exhibitors to begin to prep their rose entries at 7:30 am. Volunteers are needed all three days as well as Thursday evening for set-up from 4:30 to 8 pm. We also need help packing up on Sunday evening.

There are no special talents or rose expertise needed to volunteer at this event. Tasks range from filling vases with water, to selling cut roses and plants, to assisting judges during the show. There will be plenty of experienced people to give direction and answer questions. If you are new to growing roses, there is no better place to learn more about growing roses. And, it is exciting to have someone ask a question that YOU know the answer to.

If you have never shown roses before or haven't shown roses for a while, please bring a few blooms. We have a very large show area, and even if you don't win anything, your entry contributes to the drama of the show. And remember, there are classes for novices, youth (under 18), EarthKind™ roses, arrangements, rose crafts, and photography too! Some of these classes have very few entries. If you plan to exhibit, let Dan know so you can be admitted early.

**To volunteer, go to [www.houstonrose.org](http://www.houstonrose.org) click on the 'Fall Rose Festival' link to see what days and times are available. Then email Dan Lawlor at [dplawlor@pdq.net](mailto:dplawlor@pdq.net) with the date and time(s) you would like to volunteer. Please also include a phone number at which you can be reached. Volunteers get free admission to the show.**

If you do not want to volunteer, come to the Texas Home and Garden show and bring your friends. The rose show will be open to the public Saturday afternoon and Sunday, but our booth will be open all the time the show is open. Admission is only \$9, with children under 12 admitted free. On Friday, senior admission is \$7.

**See you at the Show! Thanks - Dan Lawlor, Show Chair; Gaye Hammond, President; and the directors of the Houston Rose Society.**