A Rash of Color - Floribundas

Want more flowers-per-stem? Our November Speaker has wonderful ideas on this subject, harvested over his years of experience growing, showing, and judging roses along the Gulf Coast. Tommy Hebert, a resident of Beaumont, Texas, is a 28-year member of the Golden Triangle Rose Society and a 23-year member of The American Rose Society. Some of his many awards include the Master Rosarian Award of the ARS and the Outstanding Judge Award, the Outstanding Consulting Rosarian Award and the Silver Honor Medal of the South Central District of ARS. He has just completed service to our District as the Prizes and Awards Chair, also served as our District representative to the national Prizes and Awards Committee.

A lifetime gardener, Tommy counts around 300 rose plants in his garden. Tommy is also having great fun with hybridizing and has several on the market. Tommy and "rose-wife" Ange also enjoy rose exhibiting when Tommy is not judging. When you come to our November meeting, you will learn about Tommy’s favorite roses for Beaumont that will also do well in the Houston area. Be prepared for a real treat.

Consulting Rosarian for November is James Laperouse. Bring your rose questions.

Grand Prix Continues: Bring your best blooms and enter the competition. The ‘old’ hands need some competition!!!

- To pickup your products of Sat. Nov. 3rd. 9:30-12 Noon.
- To register for the Advanced Horticulture Seminar Nov. 10.

Roses on Parade - If you are not bring roses to enter the Grand Prix, bring them to share.
What Good Rosarians Are Doing in November

Wow! What beautiful blooms are on our bushes this month. Enjoy them because we will not see anything like this until next April.

Leave blooms on bush
This is the time of year when we start leaving some blooms on our plants, which signals the plant that it is time to slow down and start storing some of their energy into the canes and even down into the roots. Whatever our plants store now will be the energy with which they start next year.

Enjoy blooms
Enjoy some blooms for yourself and some to share and some for your plants energy store.

Discontinue all fertilizing
No more fertilizing until next spring. Any fertilizer now will cause tender growths to start, and all of that energy will be lost to the first hard frost or freeze.

Continue to spray fungicide until plants are dormant
Do continue to spray with your favorite preventive fungicide to keep the blackspot under control. A plant that goes into winter with fungi will be a weaker bush next spring.

Mulch
Be sure that you have a good layer of mulch on your beds. Rose roots are usually shallow, and the added mulch helps to protect them from freeze damage.

Special treatment
If you are growing roses on Fortuniana rootstock, you will want to have a little extra mulch on hand so that the bud unions can be covered, if or when we get temperatures below freezing. The rootstock is a little tender, especially the first year, and will need some protection. Remember that Fortuniana roots grow just underneath the mulch. They do not have anchor roots like other rootstocks.

Insects
Most insects are not a problem this late in the year. Thrips can still be a problem, if you are looking for a more perfect bloom. As always, spray only the buds and blooms with an insecticide.

You can make your garden look cleaner if you will just put your hand around a spent bloom and remove only the petals, leaving the rose hip. This will make the garden look cleaner and will also get rid of some of the thrips that might be hanging around the garden.

Evaluation of your plants now can be very beneficial to you in the spring. Tag and remove bushes that have not performed well for you. All of us have bought bushes that sounded good in the catalogs, but have not lived up to our expectations. Tag these bushes, and bring them to the February meeting. Bushes which are brought to the February meeting are pruned and then given away as door prizes.

Don’t get anxious to transplant.
Transplanting is best done during the most dormant time, usually late January to February. A plant will go through less stress and shock when it is dormant.

Store chemicals away from freezing temperatures.
Liquid formulations are susceptible to freezing, and their chemical consistencies can change with fluctuating temperatures.

Finish lawn projects and construction while the weather is nice and you can be outdoors. Soil is easier to work when it isn’t wet or cold. Is that new rose bed just about finished?

Clean and sharpen equipment
The off season is a good time to take care of your equipment. Clean and sharpen your shears and take care of your other lawn equipment as well.

Encourage friends who are starting into roses to join the Houston Rose Society. Tell them of the benefits they will enjoy if they, too, become members.

Gift memberships make excellent gifts for family, friends, doctors, office workers, etc.; gifts that will be enjoyed all year long.
Rose of the Month

'Altissimo'

by Robin Hough

Our rose for this month is the large-flowered climber 'Altissimo.' Bred in France by G. Delbard and introduced in the United Kingdom in 1966 by Cuthbert, this mannerly climber has stiff canes of 8 to 10 feet that must be trained early on while they can still be safely bent and tied down horizontally. The 5-inch single blooms (5 to seven petals) are a rich, velvety blood-red with wonderful golden-yellow stamens. While usually blooming one to a stem, they also come in small clusters and show up nicely against the deep-green, leathery foliage. Although I personally don't detect fragrance in these flowers, some say there is a light clove perfume present.

'Altissimo' works equally well on a wall, fence, pergola, or pillar, although you'll certainly get more blooms if the canes are trained horizontally instead of upward. Good disease resistance is also a plus for this 1993 winner of the Royal National Rose Society Award of Garden Merit.

In Italian, ‘Altissimo’ means “in the highest.” I give it my recommendation in the highest!

President's Corner

Liz Duhon
elisabethduhon@yahoo.com

We still need volunteers to assist with our Advanced Rose Horticultural Conference. Please contact Donald Burger if you are able to assist before or during the event. Both Donald and Gaye have done an excellent job organizing this conference. We have 68 registrants as of the first week of October with participants traveling from Kansas and Louisiana, as well as other Texas cities.

Important dates to remember this month are Saturday, November 3rd which is the product pick up date at Southwest Fertilizer. Our monthly meeting is Thursday, November 8th with featured speaker Tommy Hebert, and our Advanced Rose Horticultural Conference is Saturday, November 10th.

Our December meeting will be a dinner meeting at the Monument Inn. We are fortunate to have Kathy Huber as our special speaker, and she has agreed to install our officers for 2013. Please look for information in The Rose-Ette or on the HRS website, and make your dinner reservation with Ralph Twiss.

We hope to see you at the Rose Horticultural Conference or at one of our meetings.
As I was perusing through the HRS Library a book, *The Art of the Rose*, by Jérôme Goutier caught my eye. The full-color photos are stunning. I’m not quite sure why the author chose that title, but he did say that “Rose breeders have succeeded in sculpting and modeling roses to suit all tastes.” So there you are, rose gardeners and hybridizers—you’re artists.

The book takes the reader through the history of the rose, starting from fossils that have been dated 35 million years ago that resembled the Hudson, or “swamp,” rose. In ruins dating 2000 to 1700 bc, the “Bluebird Fresco” in the Palace of Minos in Knossos, Crete displays the first known representation of the rose in painted art. Mr. Goutier describes the difference between wild and species roses, in that species roses also include hybrids that have resulted from the natural crossing of different varieties of wild roses.

In the chapter ‘China, the Cradle of Roses,’ the author writes that the first four China roses imported to Europe, known as the ‘stud’ roses were ‘Parson’s Pink China,’ ‘Slater’s Crimson China,’ ‘Hume’s Blush Tea-Scented China and ‘Park’s Yellow Tea-Scented China.’ All four varieties played a vital role in the genetic history of today’s modern roses.

‘Roses from Long Ago’ is a chapter that recounts how interests of people for roses in ancient Greece were for cosmetic, medicinal and funeral (i.e., anointing oils) uses. In Roman society, roses were used in perfumes, medicines, cooking, decorations, funerals, and even Roman crowns. An industrial approach was used to grow roses to meet the massive demand. The Romans introduced roses to Egypt and elsewhere in their empire. There’s a legend that roses found in Egyptian tombs in Hawera as a mortuary crown, bloomed 18 centuries later when placed in hot water. Elsewhere in the Middle East, Persian accounts of how to produce rose essence were seen from the 9th century onward, and poets such as Saadi and Omar Khayam wrote about the rose as well.

Roses had a difficult time after the fall of the Roman Empire. They found refuge in the gardens of monasteries and abbeys as well as in an imperial decree. At that time, roses were restricted to botanic varieties in Europe. During the Crusades, roses were brought to Europe from Damascus that we know as Damask roses, and a cross of a Damask and Alba roses resulted in the Rosa centifolia that produced a multitude of hybrids and new varieties.

The chapter, ‘Old Roses’ describes these roses as extraordinarily light, despite their countless petals, that come in incomparable colors and are divinely fragrant. Josephine Bonaparte and her amazing worldwide collection of roses at Malmaison are included. The book continues and reviews French and German rose breeders’ discoveries and roses in the 18th and 19th centuries.

In ‘Roses Today’ English roses of David Austin are noted as well as Wilhelm Kordes in Germany, Louis Lens in Belgium, Meilland, Guillot and Delbard in France as well as many of their roses. The author comments that many of the modern roses have a taste of the nostalgia in form, yet have varied and innovative colors. Fragrances, repeat-flowering and resistance to insects, disease and climate are objectives. ‘The Extended Rose Family’ section features miniature, ground-cover, shrub, standard, weeper, rambler, and climbing roses. The last section offers notes on care and cultivation of each type of rose.

“The Art of the Rose’ is interesting to read, translated from French and is the first of a two-volume set titled ‘Roses.’
As we gathered in Oklahoma City, OK, we renewed old acquaintances and make a few new ones. Rose friends are great people.

Bob Martin was the guest speaker at the banquet and gave an excellent presentation.

The Outstanding Judge Award was awarded to Clyde & Becky Davis.

The Silver Honor Medal was awarded to Claude Graves.

The J. Horace McFarland Memorial District Trophy was won by Don & Paula Adlong with Veterans' Honor, Randy Scott, White Success, Signature and Here's Sam.

The Ralph S. Moore District Trophy was won by Jack Dickson with Intimidator, 'Fairhope', 'Odessa', 'Nancy Jean', 'Michel Cholet', 'Miss Flippins' and 'Soroptimist International'.

Large Queen was won by Joanna Deck with 'Louise Estes'.

Large King was won by Don & Paula Adlong with 'Fantasy'.

Large Princess was won by Don & Paula Adlong with 'White Success'.

Court was 'Cajun Sunrise', 'Distant Sounds', 'Lynette', 'Veterans' 'Honor', 'Black Magic', 'Moonstone' and 'Big Time'.

Miniature Queen was won by Wade Brown with 'Fairhope'.

Miniature King was won by Joanna Deck with 'Miss Flippins'.

Miniature Princess was won by Joanna Deck with 'Breath of Spring'.

Court was 'Anna Marie', 'Joy', 'Memphis Belle', 'Peter Alonso', 'Emma Grace', 'Ty' and 'Memphis Belle'.

Miniflora Queen was won by Wade Brown with 'Show Stopper'.

Miniflora King was won by Joanna Deck with Dr. Troy Garrett.

Miniflora Princess was won by Joanna Deck with 'Shameless'.

Court was 'Memphis Cajun', 'Tiffany Lynn', 'Mr. Lenard', 'Memphis King', 'Foolish Pleasure', 'Baldo Villegas' and 'Whirlaway'.

Our own Baxter Williams is now Regional Director of Region 7. He has just finished serving 6 years as our South Central District Director.

We have a District Convention and Show in October every year. You might like to consider being a part of our district event next year. It will be hosted by the San Antonio Rose Society in San Antonio, TX October 25 - 25, 2013. They have a great event planned for us. You will not want to miss it.
What Gets Ground Must Come Up
by: Jim Harding, Editor, Nashville Rose Leaf
As seen in KATnips Summer/Fall 2012, Mary Bates, Editor

As a little fella, I remember my grandfather adding coffee grounds (among other things) to his garden soil, and he always grew the best vegetables! I figured if it worked for him it should work for me too.

With over 200 roses in our garden, the next question is where to get enough grounds to make a difference? Considering that Starla and I are a tea totaling household that doesn’t drink coffee, this could be a challenge. Even if we did, there are only two of us, so trying to drink enough coffee between us would be like spitting into the wind.

Enter our youngest daughter, Molly, who happens to work at a Starbucks. She confirmed that many of their stores give away their used coffee grounds for free. With the high cost of some fertilizers and soil amendments, free sounded pretty darn good, so I started stopping by our local Starbucks. Each sack of grounds I took home filled up a five gallon bucket. Scattering them over the rose beds made me feel like I was carrying on an old family tradition that would make my “Papa” proud.

While it felt like I was doing something good, I wondered if there was any real benefit other than taking something destined for a landfill and returning it to the earth?

Bless Al Gore’s heart; the Internet truly is a great thing. It only took a few clicks of my mouse to figure out there was a distinct difference of opinion when it came to the pH of coffee. Some sources had the pH of coffee at a 5.0, way too low for roses. Other sources touted a pH of 6.9, which would be wonderful for middle Tennessee’s chronic acidic soils. I am certainly no scientist, but I do happen to own a handy dandy Kelway pH meter. I took some coffee grounds home from work to test, and bingo – 6.9 pH on the nose! I also tested the next batch of grounds from Starbucks – theirs had a pH of 7.0.

While this was good news, I was curious as to why some sources with very respected credentials were saying coffee had a pH of 5.0 versus other well-respected researchers that claimed a pH of 6.9. As crazy as it sounds, it turns out both are correct. Before brewing, coffee does have a very low pH, but afterwards the pH changes the grounds to a very rose friendly pH of 6.9.

As rosarians we are taught the key to roses’ ability to receive the benefits of any nutrients we offer is tied to the soil’s pH. After testing our beds, I found most of them were in the low 6 range, so adding the coffee grounds seems like a free, easy, organic, and environmentally friendly way to help improve the pH and get it closer to the ideal pH of 6.5.

So far, so good, but it would still be nice to know how coffee grounds affect the soil’s nutrition, or if they are earthworm friendly. With mouse in hand I went back to the Internet to see what I could find.

Nutrients - Coffee grounds are packed with good nutrients. A guaranteed analysis from the Soil & Plant Laboratory, Inc. in Bellevue, WA, found that the grounds from Starbucks coffee contained 2.28 percent nitrogen, 0.06 percent phosphorous and 0.6 percent potassium. Magnesium and copper were also found in the grounds. In comparison to other organic fertilizers like horse manure with an NPK of 0.6/0.4/0.5, coffee grounds have a lot to offer, and without the worry of containing any weed seeds!

The nitrogen content in coffee must decompose before it becomes available to plants. In other words, it acts like a slow release fertilizer for long term nitrogen input. Nearly all of the potassium and magnesium are immediately available when blended with the soil. About half of the copper and calcium are in immediately available forms. To get the most benefit, mix the coffee grounds into the soil. Avoid depositing thick layers on top, because coffee compacts easily and can form a water barrier.
Experts - A study conducted in 2007 by researchers from Saginaw Valley State University states that coffee grounds reduce soil compaction, improve aeration, decrease insects breeding in the soil and increase the production of worms.

Worms - gardeners everywhere know the benefits of worms and how they aerate the soil, working in important nutrients. Worms love coffee grounds, because of their small particle size, moisture retention, and their ability to grow microorganisms. Adding coffee grounds to the soil will make it more attractive to worms, adding a direct benefit to your roses.

Pests - I cannot vouch for this one, but according to multiple sources I found, slugs and snails, two garden antagonists, are no fans of coffee. Mulching with coffee grounds around plants will help reduce the ravages of these pests. According to Ann Lovejoy, garden writer for the Kitsap Sun, the caffeine and acid present in the grounds is absorbed by the slugs as they move over them, and it acts as a poison. Other sources cited said that coffee does not actually kill the slugs, but acts as a deterrent. Either way it is safe for you and your soil --- not so much for the slugs.

All of this sounds pretty good, but I am a visual person, so out of curiosity I wondered if something could grow in nothing but coffee grounds? I filled a small cup with some grounds, sprinkled in some grass seed, added water, and a few weeks later there was lush green growth that looked a lot better than my lawn! Proof that what gets ground down can yield something good coming up.

I guess I could have taken the gardening practices of my grandfather at face value and simply followed in his footsteps, but it feels good to back it up with knowledge. After doing my homework, the bottom line is that, on every level, using the dregs from the local coffee shop are good for the garden, the roses, the soil, the worms, the environment and my wallet.

One last thought. Not being coffee drinkers, Starla and I began feeling a little guilty about taking something for free without offering anything in return, so we routinely bring a vase of roses as our way of saying thanks. The Starbucks staff seem appreciative. They proudly display the roses next to the condiments and tell their customers to look at what one of their customers grew with their coffee. While not one hundred percent truthful, we do not correct them, as it is the thought that counts. One of the best reasons for growing roses is to share them. By giving back to Starbucks, maybe this is one small way to plant some rosy ideas in the heads of the young hip generation!

Another Rose Has Fallen

The Houston Rose Society was officially re-formed on August 13, 1959, and Robert L. Liken was our very first President and his wife, Faye, was our first Secretary. On August 7th, Faye, at age 98, went to be with her Lord. Bob and Faye are considered "rootstock" of the HRS and while they moved to Quarryville, PA several years ago, they have remained members of HRS for 53 years! We love you, Bob, and we share your loss of Faye. Please accept our heart-felt condolences.

Members of the Houston Rose Society
**Society Potpourri**

**LAST MONTH'S MEETING**

A special thanks to James Laperouse for a excellent program on Hybrid Teas.

Hospitality: Thanks to Maria Trevino, Susan Kelly, Dorothy Winter and Maria Sabin for the wonderful refreshments at October's meeting.

A special thanks to Bob Patterson of Southwest Fertilizer for the donation of 2 pair of Felco shears as door prizes.

The last Grand Prix will be at our November meeting. Bring your best blooms, and enter the competition.

**HRS Events Calendar**

Mark your calendar - updates made monthly

- **Nov 3**  ■ Product Pick up - 9:30 - Noon
- **Nov 8**  ■ HRS Meeting - Tommy Hebert - A Rash of Color: Floribundas
- **Nov 10**  ■ Advanced Rose Horticulture Conference and CR School South Texas College of Law See brochure in last month’s newsletter
- **Dec 13**  ■ Holiday Party - Monument Inn

**2012 HRS Officers**

President  Elisabeth Duhon  713-855-8447  elisabethduhon@yahoo.com

VP Show  Dan Lawlor  281-343-9422  dplawlor@pdq.net

VP Program  Baxter Williams  713-944-3437  bxtwms@att.net

VP Member.  Renee Cummins  713-524-2332  nana1434@gmail.com

Secretary  Susan Kelly  832-867-7013  suzzieq1971@aol.com

Treasurer  Ralph Twiss  281-242-8613  ralphmetwiss@windstream.net

Editor  Patsy Williams  713-944-3437  ptzwms@att.net

Publicity  Mary Bahn  713-623-0200  bahn.mary@gmail.com

Past Pres  Robin Hough  281-482-8944  rzhough@gmail.com

Director  Donald Burger  713-861-5412  burger@burger.com

Director  Gaye Hammond  281-458-6116  gayeh@lpm-triallaw.com

**IT'S PARTY TIME**

Make Plans to Attend

The Annual Holiday Dinner AND Installation of Officers OF THE Houston Rose Society

**THURSDAY December 13th**

**Monument Inn**

4406 Independence Highway (formerly Battleground Rd) off Texas Hwy 225

Social Time 6:30 pm Dinner 7:00 pm

**Menu - Choice of Entree**

- Rib-eye Steak
- Fisherman’s Platter
- Tilapia with Ponchartrain Sauce
- Chicken Teriyaki

with salad, baked potato, home made rolls, and sweet muffins tea or coffee

**COST: $25.00 per person**

PRE-PAID Reservations are required by December 8th

Make your check Payable to the “Houston Rose Society” and mail to:

**Ralph Twiss, Treasurer**

835 Bel Mar Street

Sugar Land, TX 77478-3301

Phone: 281-242-8613 home

This is one of the best meetings of the year! We have raffles for rose related gifts, And awards galore!!

Mark your calendar for this once-a-year event!

Bring a rose related or garden oriented gift (around $10) to be put into the raffle. Raffle tickets will be $1.00 each, or 6 for $5.00.
DON'T FORGET!

PRODUCT PICK UP

Saturday, November 3rd ONLY
9:30 am to 12:00 noon

Location: Southwest Fertilizer
5828 Bissonet
(Corner Bissonnet & Renwick)

Come to the back raise up door on the Renwick side.

Products MUST be picked up on this date, or make arrangements for someone to pick them up for you.

Coordinator: Patsy Williams 713-944-3437

Be sure to thank Bob Patterson and Southwest Fertilizers for allowing us to use their facilities.

If you missed ordering some products, you can buy them from Southwest Fertilizer at their regular shelf price, less your special rose society discount of 15%, November 3rd only.

Please remember this is a Rose Society project. All contacts should be made to Patsy Williams, not Southwest Fertilizer.

We can still use volunteers to help distribute products on Saturday November 3rd. This is a project that we do to help you with the price of products. Call Patsy Williams 713-944-3437.

Visit the American Rose Center

If you have never visited the American Rose Center during Christmas in Roseland, now may be the time for you to consider it. Open evenings November 23-December 23, on Friday, Saturday, and Sundays only. The lights are a sight to behold, and there is scheduled entertainment, also. For the children, Santa is there, and a train, too.

Renewals Soon

Within the next two weeks you'll receive your annual Renewal Notice (unless your label shows “Dec 13”). As soon as you can, edit the form to reflect any updates of your personal data - particularly changes in your E-mail addresses - and return it, with your check, in the included envelope. (Dues may also be paid by credit card, or on line.) And include a self-addressed and stamped envelope, if you wish to receive a 2013 membership card.

Nominees for 2013 HRS Officers

President 
Elisabeth Duhon

VP Show 
Dan Lawlor

VP Programs 
Baxter Williams

VP Membership 
Manning Correia

Secretary 
Susan Kelly

Treasurer 
Gaye Hammond

Editor 
Maria Trevino

Parliamentary/Publicity 
Mary Bahn

Director 1 year 
Donald Burger

Director 2 Year 
Mary Fulgham

Past President 
Robin Hough

A big thank you to the Nominating Committee for their work on filling these positions.

Gift Memberships

This is the time of year when we might like to give a gift that keeps giving all year long to a friend, neighbor, doctor, etc. We will send out an acknowledgement to the recipient noting you as the giver. They will receive 12 issues of our newsletter, the *Rose-Ette*.

There are two types of HRS membership: $15.00 for hard copy mailed to members, and $12.00 for electronic only. E-members are notified when the newsletter is posted on the website.

Send your check made out to Houston Rose Society to: Baxter Williams, 2502 Leprechaun Lane, Houston, TX 77017-7320.

We need to know the gift recipient's name, address, ZIP, phone, and E-mail if possible.
Address Service Requested

Happy Thanksgiving

Mailed November 24, 2012

HRS web address:  http://www.houstonrose.org
SCD web address:  http://www.arsscd.org

Call a Consulting Rosarian

These Rosarians welcome your rose questions.

Donald Burger / Maria Trevino    Heights  713-861-5412
Denise Cope                  SW  713-771-4841
Manning Correia             Wdlnds  281-465-0180
Elisabeth Duhon       N  713-855-8447
♦ Mary Fulgham / Randy Keen    Bel  713-668-4054
William Groth            SW  713-728-1854
Gaye Hammond           NE  281-458-6116
don ♦ Robin Hough         SE  281-482-8944
John Jons                SE  281-794-2998
♦ Earl / ♦ Deanna Krause   SE  281-487-3347
James Laperouse        NW  281-746-2842
Shirley Morgan          W  713-463-6719
John Patterson       Bry/CS  979-690-9630
♦ Baxter / ♦ Patsy Williams  S  713-944-3437

♦ Master Rosarians

Randall's Remarkable Card for HRS, # 5928

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

MEMBERSHIP is $15.00 per calendar year, Electronic only $12.00 January thru December. Mail membership dues to:

Baxter Williams
2502 Leprechaun Lane
Houston, TX 77017-7320
Phone 713-944-3437
btwms@att.net

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