



ROSE PROSE

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE
FORT WORTH ROSE SOCIETY
AN AFFILIATE OF THE AMERICAN ROSE SOCIETY

VOLUME #48 ISSUE 10
NOVEMBER, 2010
LARRY WILEY, EDITOR

WWW.FORTWORTHROSESOCIETY.ORG



Our next meeting will be on Tuesday, November 2, in the Garden Center of the Fort Worth Botanic Garden.

Hospitality time is at 6:30, followed by the program at 7:00.

This month, Jeff Myers, head rose gardener at the FWBG, will give an update of the roses in garden. As always, there will be refreshments and good conversation.

CONTENTS

President's Message and Meeting Minutes	Below
Editor's Notes and Website Report	Page 3
November Rose Notes, by Jim McCarty, Horticulture Editor	
"When chill November's surly blast..."	Page 4
"If It's November, We Should Be..."	Page 5
"Drying Roses for Fun," by Barbara Gordon	Page 5
2010 FWRS Officers and Consulting Rosarians/FWRS Membership Form	Page 7

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

BY JANICE CLARKE



Hi Everyone,

All of the participant's in the gathering at the home of Patrick Baldwin and Larry Wiley would like to thank them for their wonderful hospitality and graciousness. It was a memorable evening filled with roses, food, music, and companionship. Our special acknowledgement to them both for making all of this

happen by opening up their house and gardens to the Fort Worth Rose Society.

In addition, I would like to thank Larry Wiley, Herschell Fortner, Bill Cashin, Janice Clarke, and Nan Garvin for their help in selling our roses at the pre-plant sale in the Botanic Garden on Thursday afternoon and evening. Linda Larkin, Larry Norris, Jim Suggs, Jim McCarty, Jean Cole, Janice Clarke, Nan Garvin, and Matt Orwat were at the gardens on Saturday to sell roses and also deserve a special thank-you for their efforts. They wrote tickets, answered questions, arranged plants, bought roses, and did anything else they could to promote our sale and make our presence and mission known to the general public. These two revenue-generating events would not have been possible without Jim Suggs and we want to give him a hug and very, very special thanks for all of his efforts. He hand selected the plants in east Texas, transported

them to Fort Worth, carried them to the set-up place, monitored the sale, and then re-distributed any that were left. Along with his expertise in all rose things and his unique personality, he is absolutely irreplaceable. The Ft. Worth Rose Society exists because of people like Jim and Judy Suggs and we cannot thank them enough for their efforts and years of loyalty to the Society.

Jeff Myers, from the rose garden in the Ft. Worth Botanic Gardens, will provide our November program. He will talk with us about the year's happenings in the Garden. Mary Kathryn Anderson, from the Tarrant Area Food Bank, will not be able to be at our November meeting. Instead, she has graciously offered to give us a brief presentation in December at our party at Mimi's Cafe. I hope to see you at these two places and I want you to know how much I appreciate and enjoy each one of you.

MEETING MINUTES FOR SATURDAY, OCTOBER 2, 2010

Twenty-three members of the Rose Society met at the home of Larry Wiley and Patrick Baldwin for the October meeting. It was a perfect evening—the weather cooperated beautifully, many roses were in bloom, great (that's GREAT) Mexican food was prepared by the attendees, there was a plant giveaway at the end of the evening, and good conversation ensued. Also, Larry took advantage of the event to show off his recently purchased 1911 Steinway piano. To top off the evening, Jack Walter gave the attendees a preview of the new rose honoring the victims of Flight 93 who died on 9/11. Jack will be the sole distributor of this beautiful red HT.

'Don Juan' (LCl, 1958)
Photo by L. Wiley



EDITOR'S NOTES

BY LARRY WILEY



Your editor decided that, with the “embarrassment of roses” available this fall, it was incumbent on him to offer as many photos as could be safely sent by email without clogging up everyone’s memory pods. (Please excuse my expert computerese.) The roses on the front cover are described below, starting in upper left

corner, going clockwise.

I got the HT, ‘Dorothy Anne’ (HT, 1985) last fall from Jack Walter. (The rose is named for Jack’s late wife.) Didn’t manage to get it in the ground until mid-summer (I know, bad idea), but it thrived and this fall has put out some impressive blooms. The one in the cover picture was over 6 inches in diameter! Even before it’s parentage was checked, Patrick and I discussed how much like the old ‘First Prize’ it looked—especially in the bud form. (Middle photo on cover.) Sure enough, the parents are ‘First Prize’ x ‘Lady X.’

This is my first year with ‘White Linen’ (HT, 2005) and I didn’t really have a great bloom until this fall. It’s on ‘Fortuniana’ rootstock and the plant has reached 7’ tall in one year. The bloom on the cover was almost a week old, so it certainly has staying power (at least in cool fall temps). The spring bloom is eagerly anticipated.

The relatively new ‘Dream Come True’ (Gr, 2006) has been a super performer for me this year—hardly ever out of bloom, with beautiful, disease free foliage. It was ranked 7.9 for exhibition, 7.5 for garden in the latest Roses in Review.

This beautiful red mini-flora, ‘Ray Still,’ was hybridized by my friend Robin Hough of Houston in 2001. This summer he gave me one of these plants that Jack Walter had rooted on ‘Fortuniana.’ As you can see, it has a rich red color with frilly petals. It also has great staying power. It was rated an outstanding 8.4 (exhibition) and 8.0 (garden) in the recent RIR.

Elsewhere in the newsletter:

The picture of ‘Don Juan’ (LCI, 1958; p. 2.) is included as a tribute to the bush that wouldn’t die. This climber, now about 20 years old, moved with us to Burleson five years ago and it has struggled to come back. It can now be reported that it has returned (almost) to its former glory, providing many velvety, fragrant blooms to the garden.

By now, almost everyone has seen the unusual color of ‘Honey Dijon’ (Gr, 2003; p. 4). That color gets

even more unique in the cool fall air (mine are almost caramel) and is a real showstopper in the garden.

‘Scepter’d Isle’ (as Great Britain is sometimes called, I’ve discovered; p. 6) is a David Austin shrub rose introduced in 1996. This one of my favorite Austin roses. The bush is not too large—about 4’—with exquisite, porcelain-like blooms. And the licorice-tinged fragrance is outstanding. My bush is not too prolific, but that may be due to the fact that it’s growing in a lot of shade. A move is in the works for next spring.

Elsewhere in the newsletter, I hope you will enjoy the article on drying roses, beginning on p. 5. (A repeat from four years ago, for those of you with great memories.) The article came from the ARS web site.

WEBSITE REPORT JAY GOODE, WEBMASTER

Fall is here and it is evident from the visits on the Fort Worth Rose Society’s web site that rosarians are thinking about roses.

The visitor count is up 48% over the same period in September. (The statistics on the web site is accumulation by Google Analytics. The Webmaster’s visits are filtered out.)

The visitors:

- 89 visits between Sept. 19 and Oct. 19.
- 215 pages were viewed.
- 2.42 pages per visit.

The most popular pages were the Home Page (64 visits) and the Calendar Page (44 visits).

One Texas visitor came from outside the Fort Worth/Dallas area. That was Austin. Some 56 visits came from 24 cities in this area. A number of visitors viewed the Calendar Page and linked off to the RoseDango.com web site. That helped make RoseDango 2010 one of the most successful events ever.

Outside of Texas, 24 visitors came from eight states. Some 15 visitors came from Illinois. California was well represented. Visitors came from Saudi Arabia, the Netherlands, Russia, and the Ukraine. The Internet search engines such as Google, Yahoo, and Bing sent 50 visitors. Other rose sites such as the American Rose Society, Dallas Area Historical Rose Society, the ARS South Central District, and ask.com referred visitors to the FWRS web site. Four visitors used their iPhones or Android handheld devices to view the web site.

More people everywhere are using these handheld devices to view the Internet. First-time visitors numbered 69 while 20 visitors were returning visitors.

To put the web site visits into perspective, the Houston Rose Society receives up to 1,500 visits during peak months. Their web site is well established. Given time, the FWRS web site should approach that someday. It takes time.

NOVEMBER ROSE NOTES

BY JIM MCCARTY, HORTICULTURE EDITOR



“When chill November’s surly blast Made field and forest bare”

Robert Burns

In searching for something to lift your spirits and mold the season more to your liking, the two lines of poetry from the immortal "Bobbie" spring to mind. In reviewing this, perhaps the current writer could have searched a little further and arrived nearer to the spirit of his quest. Nevertheless, it was more perfectly in line with the mood in which we are enveloped when the annual destruction of the glorious fall bloom occurs.

More frequently, we are seeing some blooms in December, but that is living on the edge. Along with our Yule season chores we may need to include preparation for the blast referred to in Burn's poem. Extra mulch, cessation of dead heading, feeding of only slow acting fertilizers, and reviewing and evaluating the past season's actions are among the activities that should occupy us. If new beds are planned, now is the time to prepare them. This will allow a seasoning time before planting them in January or February.

Now is also a good time for the planting of replacement or new roses for the coming season, provided we properly protect them. In fact, it will allow even more growing time for the roots. The caveat here is protecting the new plants with extra TLC. (Actually consider mulching to a height you plan on pruning to in February.) One of the problems of acquiring your new roses at this season is that many nurseries may not ship now. A frozen bush is worthless both to you and the shipper. It hangs there in some deadly suspension until the matter of who will suffer the loss is decided. It is one of the deaths by a thousand pinpricks that our hobby is heir to. If your desired bush is healthy on a local nursery's shelf then the ball is in your court. Plant it well now and gain a bulge on your next season. Also, one of the pitfalls is the tendency of

some merchants to have a super sale on dead plants. There are no price cuts or discounts that will adequately compensate for the plant being actually dead. A notorious exception to this is if you are extolling the great deal you made on an expensive plant and the *corpus delecti* is not there to give a lie to your attempt. A variation on this would be if you had not actually bought the bush and merely used the advertised price to advance the quality of your gaming process. Surely we are beyond that! The writer is certain that not one of his readers would stoop so low. He is equally proud that he has never been caught when he did it.

One of the despairs of our avocation is that we essentially start over each year to produce a new crop of unknown quality.

One of the joys of our avocation is that we essentially start over each year to produce a new crop of hoped for superior quality.

By experience, study, toil, and judgment we control, let's say, 80% of the variables. This can be as much as 90% for the dedicated or as little as 5% for the disaffected. Rain, cold, drought, bugs, soil changes are but the more apparent variables that are in the uncontrolled segment. They are generally responsive to quick action to take advantage of the favorable and react to the unfavorable. In other words, it is a choice. The end of this year's season marks the beginning of next year's. You can either move up the rose horticulture ladder or duplicate the blooms of the past year. (There is of course the third, or 5% choice, but it is only whispered of in dark recesses of rose growing.) As you can see, even with these, the competent grower is a factor. Therefore, as you stand in your garden in late November, chilled to the bone and depressed by the carnage around you, you are on the threshold of a new beginning. The path is your choice.

'Honey Dijon' (Gr, 2003)
Photo by L. Wiley



IF IT'S NOVEMBER, WE SHOULD BE...

Watering	Feeding	Spraying	Mulching	Planting	Pruning	Other
Water - a moist bed survives the cold better.	Feeding in November should be almost entirely organic, such as dried manures, various meals etc. Do not encourage lush growth for early freezes to decimate.	Humidity and cooler weather still harbor the blackspot spore. It is better to compost materials you put in your beds at any time of year	Keep 3 to six inches on beds. Same story but may need more mulch. Some has turned to good soil and some has just oxidized into the air. Cover bud union in advance of freeze.	In cooler weather, planting will have a good chance. Watch weather reports and don't plant in the face of a blue norther. Protect with more mulch before an early freeze.	Dead wood only. Next pruning in Feb. Stop deadheading. Let bushes harden.	Mulch, particularly pine bark, will wash off of many raised beds. Be sure to replace. If you love your roses, mulch them. If not, that is another problem. Even hardwood oxidizes and needs supplementing
<p>Replenish mulch and practice clean beds. Run leaves through compost beds to break them down. Make at least a token effort to keep pecans acorns and such to minimum. Remove dead wood and dead twigs that have fallen or been blown from surrounding plants and trees. Have emergency supply of mulch to suppress blue norther.</p>						

DRYING ROSES FOR FUN BY BARBARA GORDON, MOUNTAIN VIEW, CA

Cutting and preparing for drying

Cut roses when blooms are buds and/or in their prime after the dew has dried off (usually in the afternoon).

Methods of Drying

Air Drying by hanging: Gather long-stemmed roses (4-6), wrap a rubber band around the stems and hang upside down in a warm, dry, dark and well-ventilated place for 1 to 2 weeks with space between blooms.

Electric Dehydrator: Commercial food dehydrators set at the lowest temperature of 95 to 100 degrees dries roses very well. Place as many fresh roses on racks without touching. Run for 8 to 24 hours depending on bloom size. Blooms will shrink about 50% and color will change more than silica gel, but vivid colors and no silica gel dust to remove are the advantages.

Drying with Desiccants:

* **Silica Gel:** Silica gel is not toxic, but avoid inhaling it because it can irritate your sinuses. Colors that come out close to the original when dried in silica are white, light pink, yellow, lavender, and blue (non-

roses). Darker colors, such as red, deep pink, and orange, tend to turn out even darker. Choose a container that is at least 1-2 inches larger in diameter than the roses or other flowers you are drying. Start by pouring a 1" layer of silica on the bottom of the container. Place your blooms face up on this bed, filling the container, starting with the spaces between the blooms. Do not pour silica directly on the blooms. As you fill the spaces, the silica will hold and support the shape of the blooms. As you fill the spaces, the silica will eventually spill into the spaces between the petals. Cover the final layer of blooms with 1-2 inches of silica gel. The rose stems should be about 1 inch long. Roses dry in 7-10 days.

* **Sand** (1 cup) with borax (2 cups) or cornmeal (2 cups) or silica gel (2 cups)

* **Borax** (1 cup with 1 cup cornmeal) takes about 2-8 days. Watch out for bugs that eat the cornmeal.

Drying With The Microwave

* **Microwave only:** Arrange thin blossoms loosely between paper towels. Dry for a minute or two, then cool. Dry only a few flowers at a time. Roses may lose too much color and become too brittle and hard to handle. Always put a little cup of water in the microwave when drying roses.

* **Microwave and silica gel:** Containers that have been used in the microwave with silica gel should

not be used later for food preparation. Make sure the silica gel is dry and bright blue (250 degrees in oven or one minute in microwave on high). Select a non-metal container and follow directions above for using silica gel. Microwave for one minute. Cool for 30 minutes. Check to see if rose is dry. If not, return for one more minute. Use a small, soft brush to remove the silica gel when cool.

*** Drying leaves in a microwave:** Open a folded paper napkin once so it will have two thicknesses. Put a few small leaves or one large leaf on 1/2 of the paper napkin and fold the other half over. Place a microwaveable mug or small plate on top of the napkin and leaf "sandwich" to prevent curling. Dry on high a minute at a time. Remove from microwave and let stand to cool for 20 minutes.

[Cleaning the microwave: On your highest setting, bring a cup of water with a dash of lemon juice to a boil. Change the temperature setting to "low" and boil for 3 minutes. Thoroughly dry the inside of the microwave and its door. Your oven will be shining clean and the kitchen will smell fresh!]

Supplies and Tools

Glues, clippers, toothpicks, floral foam, Styrofoam, glue gun, sprays to seal and preserve roses (plastic, acrylic, lacquer), floral tape and wire, boxes and tins, cans (tuna & sardine), baskets, boards, wooden spoons, containers and vases - Use these for arrangements.

Wires for stems: Cut a wire and push it through the base of the flower or rose (calyx). Floral tape the whole false stem. Wiring enables the stems to bend, and also lengthens a stem.

Sealing dried roses: Covering roses with a clear plastic spray, acrylic or lacquer will preserve their colors, making them more durable and moisture-resistant. Some sealers may be brushed on the blooms. Even a thin coat of melted paraffin wax at a cooler temperature will protect the blooms (dipped or painted on the petals).

Projects for Dried roses

Arrangements, decorations, pictures, hand-held or pin-on corsages or bouquets, wall hanging, jewelry and ornaments, topiary trees.

Storage of dried roses

Place them in sealed, tight containers—cookie tins or Tupperware containers are best. Add a small amount of silica gel if storing them in plastic bags.

Good Roses for Drying

Dark Red: Christian Dior, Dolly Parton, Candy Apple, Old Smoothie, Olympiad, Mountie, Royal Canadian, Acey Deucey, Old Glory, Don Juan, Mercedes, Beauty Secret, Red Minimo, Black Jade.

Pink: Prima Donna, Century Two, Electron, Perfume Delight, Lancôme, Miss All American Beauty, Pink Peace, High Jinks, Winsome (mauve), Dainty Bess buds, Queen Elizabeth, Dicky, Heidi, Tiffany, Simplicity buds, Dick Koster, Bewitched.

Orange: Fragrant Cloud, Prominent, Marina, Impatient, Bing Crosby, Tropicana, Olé, Carrot Top, Starina, Holy Toledo, Little Jackie, Joycie, Julie Ann, Trumpeter, Apricot Nectar, Brandy, Margo Koster, New Year, Las Vegas, Orange Sunblaze.

All medium and deep yellows

Blends: Touch of Class, Sheer Elegance, Milestone, Color Magic, Cary Grant, Mon Cheri, Kristin, Child's Play, Apricot Mist, Helen Boehm, Whoopi, Debut, Double Delight, Paradise, Sea Pearl, Purple Tiger, French Perfume, Monet, Desert Peace, Nicole, Redgold, Jean Kenneally, Millie Walters, Pinstripe, Ring of Fire, Roller Coaster, Stars 'n' Stripes.



'Scepter'd Isle' (S, 1996)
Photo by L. Wiley

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Single member, \$15.00
Two members at same address, \$18.00

Members receive:

- ❖ The official newsletter of the FWRS—Rose Prose—each month except January;
- ❖ Eleven meetings consisting of lectures, visits to members' homes, ice cream socials, plant exchanges, field trips and our annual Christmas party;
- ❖ Opportunities to participate in the Fort Worth Botanic Garden plant sales and other events.

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