



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

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APRIL, 2011
LARRY WILEY, EDITOR



50TH ANNIVERSARY 1961-2011



'Mardi Gras' (F), 2007
Three stages of bloom.
Photo by L. Wiley

**DON'T MISS the next meeting at the home of Linda Larkin on
Sunday, April 17, 4:00 p.m. See inside for more details.**

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**Our next meeting is on Sunday, April 17,
4:00 p.m., at the home of
Linda Larkin
308 Timberline South,
Colleyville, TX, 76034
Pho: 817.498.6824.**

**RSVP requested by April 11 to this
number or to larkinowens@tx.rr.com.**

**There will be good food, TWO garden tours,
and a lot of fun rose talk. (And, rumor has it
that many plants will be given away.)**

(A sneak peak at Linda's garden.)



See Janice's message below for more details.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

BY JANICE CLARKE



Hi, everyone,

Welcome to spring, the most beautiful season in Texas. My flowers are growing nicely, despite our dreaded ice storms, and I am anticipating a very colorful floral display in the near future. I hope your gardens fared as well.

Please remember, there will be no formal meeting of our Rose Society in the Botanic Garden for the month of April. Instead, we are going to visit Linda Larkin's home in Colleyville. Her address is 308 Timberline South and her telephone number is 817.498.6824. She would like us to be there by 4:00 p.m. on Sunday, April 17th. We will tour her garden and have beverages and appetizers there and then we will travel to Mike Becker's house to see his roses. After this, we will go back to Linda's for a fried chicken dinner with all the trimmings. The fried chicken and dessert will be furnished, all we need from you are side dishes and appetizers. In order to procure the right amount of chicken, Linda would like you to RSVP by April 11th. It would also be helpful for you to tell her what you are planning to bring so she can make any adjustments, if needed. This is a really unique, ambitious itinerary and I'm sure we will all have a wonderful time, thanks to Linda and Mike.

We had two very successful plant sales in the Botanic Garden at the end of March and early April. I appreciate Jim Suggs

for driving to East Texas to pick up the roses and also the many volunteers who helped at the sales.

Also, Larry Wiley has been making some tentative plans for our 50th anniversary celebration. So far, he has been working on a field trip to Clark Gardens and Chandor Gardens in Weatherford. He has been considering touring Chandor Gardens in the morning and then continuing by visiting Clark Gardens in the afternoon (or vice versa), with lunch in between these two events. Lunch might be "brat roasting" in a nearby park, or a catered lunch, or lunch at a convenient restaurant. October might be a good month for this to happen because the roses should be at their fall seasons best, after the summer's heat. Please take the time to give him, or me, some input into these ideas. We welcome your suggestions.

Thanks to all who completed the Members' Rose Survey that Larry is publishing in this issue of the Rose Prose. This survey will help to identify which roses grow best/worst in our area. If you didn't send in your response, it's not too late. He will accept your responses at any time.

Rachel Feldstein (membership) has informed me that only 36 have paid their 2011 Fort Worth Rose Society's dues, at the present time. If you are one of those, thank you and if you are not, we would encourage you to address this matter as soon as possible. In order to ensure the smooth operation of our club, we need an up to date treasury.

Congratulations to Fort Worth Rose Society's newest

(Cont. on next page.)

Consulting Rosarian, Herschell Fortner, and to Carolyn Hayward for the wonderful acknowledgement of her participation on the American Rose Center Committee that was published in the March/April issue of American Rose. Our Rose Society has many outstanding members and we all

appreciate their special contributions.

Finally, I look forward to visiting with you at our plant sales and garden tours. Meanwhile, enjoy spring and all of the special gifts we are fortunate enough to have in this troubled world.

2011 FWRS DUES

Our treasurer, Larry Norris, reports that only 36 of our members have paid their 2011 dues. We ended 2010 with approximately 75 members and we hope you all will continue as valued members of the society. If you have not paid, please bring your dues to the next meeting on April 17 at Linda Larkin's, or send to:

Larry Norris
4761 Meadowbrook Drive
Fort Worth, TX 76103

PLEASE DON'T MISS OUT ON A GREAT YEAR OF PROGRAMS!

EDITOR'S NOTES

BY LARRY WILEY



By popular demand (OK, one person asked about it), I am reprinting at right a recipe for Alfalfa Tea that my roses love so. Don't let the promise of stench keep you from using this—you won't regret it!

I hope you enjoy reading the results of our member's survey as much as I did putting it together. Knowing what roses are favorites of our society members is instructive, but I equally enjoyed reading the descriptions of your gardens. I included some edited comments in the article on p. 7 and have put the unabridged versions on our website. Thanks again to all the people who took the time to respond.

The pictures on this month's front page are of the excellent floribunda, 'Mardi Gras', a 2007 AARS winner from Jackson & Perkins. It has clean foliage on a medium sized bush with a light to moderate fragrance. My third-year plant has been virtually disease-free and is quickly becoming one of my favorites.

As Janice mentioned above, I am investigating the possibility of a garden tour in the fall to help celebrate our 50th year. A road trip to Chandor Gardens in Mineral Wells and Clark Gardens in Weatherford are possibilities. Please give me your input! I'll discuss it more at our April meeting and hope to have more concrete plans by the first of May.

Hope you enjoy the article by Rich Baer in this month's Rose Prose. This is a reprint from the Portland (OR) Rose Society newsletter, Portland Rose Chatter. He provides some interesting information on spring rose care.

Alfalfa Tea

Put 10-12 cups of alfalfa meal or pellets into 30 gallons of water and let it steep for at least 3 days, stirring daily. (It's important that it starts smelling vile before you use it!) When it's ready, add:

1 cup of Epsom Salts

Label amount of liquid iron (the original recipe called for 1 cup of Ruffin Tuff, a dry iron powder, but I've been unable to find that lately; Sprint 330 is also excellent.)

1 1/2 to 2 cups of fish emulsion (now it's really smelling good!)

1 capful of Superthrive

Optional addition: Label amount of a balanced water-soluble fertilizer.

Pour one-half to one gallon of tea for each plant. I attach my garden hose to a small electric sump pump and that works beautifully. It saves time to have two people, though, one tending the sump pump and one applying the tea. Your garden will be rather "fragrant" for a few days, but the roses love it.

MEETING MINUTES

MARCH 1, 2011

LARRY WILEY FOR

YVETTE HENRY, SECRETARY

The highlight of the March FWRS meeting was a presentation by Herschell Fortner and Carolyn Hayward. Herschell, Rose Show Chair, talked about the upcoming show on May 7, and Carolyn presented some excellent ideas on preparing ourselves and our roses for exhibition. The program was preceded by our annual Chili/Soup Supper, always a favorite time of camaraderie among FWRS members.

FORT WORTH ROSE SHOW
SATURDAY, MAY 7, 2011
BY HERSCHELL FORTNER, ROSE SHOW CHAIR

Thanks to all who signed up for show committees. Three volunteered as clerks (Nan Garvin, Linda Larkin and Rachel Feldstein) and one for helping with refreshments (Rachel Feldstein). Only three \$10 trophies need sponsors. Contact me if you would like to provide the funds for those trophies. The Public Relations Table is open from 9:00 till 3:00.

Thank you Carolyn Hayward for your wonderful article and slide show on showing roses. I know we will have more participation in the show because of your clear, informative presentation.

I hope to have the Show Schedule ready for next meeting on April 17 at Linda Larkin's. I will also have entry tags. They can at least be partially filled out in advance. If you have question about entry tags we have several who can help you with them.

Our greatest need is to show a good representation of the many classes of roses we grow. The easiest roses to grow are the ones that have not been well represented in past shows. These roses may win a ribbon or trophy if they are simply entered with a correct entry tag. The public will judge bouquets and pictures from rose gardens. These sections will also provide pictures for greeting cards we will sell later.

The show classes are:

LARGE FLOWERS: 1 & 2) Hybrid Tea or Grandiflora (HT/Gr), one stem partially open. 3) Floribunda, one bloom. 4) Floribunda Spray. 5) Modern Climber. 6) Dowager, any Old Garden Rose (OGR) introduced before 1867. 7) Victorian, any specimen dated after 1867 in a class dating from before that date. 8) Shrub. 9) Polyantha Spray. 10) Earthkind. 11) OGR, Victorian and Rambler Climber. 12) HT or Gr, three blooms in different vases. 13) English Box. 14) Open Bowl.

FOR NOVICES ONLY: (Open to anyone who has not received a blue ribbon in an ARS-sanctioned show.) 15) HT or Gr, one stem or spray. 16) Floribunda/Polyantha, one bloom or spray. 17) OGR, Victorian and Shrub, one bloom or spray. 18) For Judges Only.

MINIATURES and MINI-FLORAS: 19) Miniature, one bloom. 20) Miniature Spray. 21) Miniature, fully open. 22) Single-Petal Miniature. 23) Seedling. 24) Miniature Climber. 25) Mini-Flora, one bloom. 26) Mini-Flora, fully open. 27) Miniature collection of 5 different roses. 28) Miniature, 3 stages. 29) Miniature English Box. 30) Mini-Flora English Box. 31) Miniature in Open Bowl. 32) Mini-Flora in Open Bowl. **FOR NOVICES ONLY:** 33) Miniature, one stem or spray. 34) Mini-Flora Victorian. 35) For Judges Only.

LARGE FLOWER ARRANGEMENTS: 36) Traditional, "Fourth of July". 37) Modern, "Super Bowl". 38) Oriental, "Year of the Rabbit".

MINIATURE/MINI-FLORA ARRANGEMENTS: 39) Traditional, "Valentines Day". 40) Modern, "Mardi Gras". 41) Oriental, "Chinese New Year". 42) Judges' Arrangements.

PUBLIC JUDGES: 43) Bouquet of three or more stems. 44) Garden Picture (list primary roses if any).

Our parking situation has improved, since the area available has been doubled. I look forward to having a great day with you and your roses on May 7.

APRIL ROSE NOTES

BY JIM MCCARTY, HORTICULTURE EDITOR

ROSE ROULETTE: WHEN ITS SPRINGTIME IN LAS VEGAS



Putting on his black duster, strapping on his six-clipper, and kicking a chair out of his way, Sunny Spring, the famous garden guardian, walked out the swinging door. There in the middle of his yard stands L. F. (referred to by the less knowledgeable as Late Killer Freeze.) There he stands smirking, like Black

Spot, the other outlaw of Rose City. You could tell he was storing up rage by the icicles hanging from his ears. L. F. snarls; "Thought you could get by with it, did you! You fed Little Sally Holmes, Dainty Bess and Big Red when you pruned didn't you?" "I was mighty tempted there, L. F.," the recipient of his tirade responded, "but I am a true blue son of the soil and I am waiting till all you yellow-belly freezes go back to the arctic and slither into your slimy cave where you came from. This garden ain't big enough for the two of us. I'll give you a few weeks and then I'm coming after you."

He watched as L. F. disappeared, slinking around the corner. He was gratified the way this first confrontation had turned out, but he knew this was only the opening hand they were playing. He knew the cold varmint was only waiting to take advantage of any mistake he might make.

OK, this Looney Tunes has gone on long enough. It is making even the writer nauseous. This does, however stupidly, represent the annual conundrum rose gardeners face about getting nutrients to the rose beds at the earliest time, considering the damage a late killing freeze can do. The writer pulled up the average and record weather pictures for March and April for our area. This seems to be the skinny on your odds of being hit by a significant freeze. Our average late freeze is March 13th. The record continues by showing what would probably be a killing freeze as record lows for the remaining days in March. This is hedged a little bit by most rosarians who probably think the temperature would have to get to 25 or maybe 26 and stay 5 to 7 hours to really damage the new growth.

There does not appear to have been a real killing freeze in April, as the minimum low recorded for the month is

28 degrees. In the interest of maximum quality blooms and shaping bushes to your satisfaction you have already rolled the dice in pruning the plants. They immediately started putting out new growth and are getting down to business of bringing on buds. Still, the depletion of nitrogen in the soil keeps this under reasonable control. Your natural inclination is to provide the food to shift into high gear for the process. Most keep their cool and wait until the odds are better. Some gamble. If the spring leaf out has proceeded very far, the damage created by a killing frost is substantial, even fatal to some bushes. Still the free spirits among us (including on occasion the writer) will sometimes bet the farm and feed too early. With sunny days and strong feeding the freshly-pruned plants will have expended a large portion of stored sugars on soft wood shoots that are prime victims for the freeze. If it happens, we come back from the poker game in a barrel.

So what do we learn from this? Nothing it seems. Next year common sense again backs out of the door and history repeats itself. Or not! Most of us conquer the instant gratification urge in favor of a more orderly world. If you are going to feed in March, one suggestion might be to use a slow acting fertilizer such as Osmocote or one of the many organic choices. A few of the permutations that might be considered are:

1. What are the frequency of such late freezing killing frosts? (not known)
2. How much damage would be done if a late blue norther did hit? (varies widely)
3. What is really gained by a successful early blooming? (more blooms during cool weather)
4. Would this enable a second cool season blooming before the heat meets the streets? (Maybe)
5. Would selective feeding, based on bush hardiness be practical? (interesting idea)
6. (This is for the writer only.) What would Barbara have said if the writer lost the bet. (no comment)

Other things being equal the writer will wait until late March or early April and then use Osmocote until he feels it is perfectly safe. As a charter member of Rose Wimps International, the writer does not look askance at any decision others might make. ***

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

Watering	Feeding	Spraying	Mulching	Planting	Pruning	Other
Keep moist. Five days of dry winds and temp in 80's following a heavy rain and you need to water.	After blooming period feed with some nitrogen or organics high in it. With good watering you might get an adequate second blooming.	For fungus, if damaging; for insects, only if damaging plants and then only plants involved. Try washing them off.	Keep 3 to six inches on beds; Pull back mulch from bud union. Mulch is as important in summer as winter.	Planting: not the ideal time, but OK if watered and mulched properly.	Reprune for missed sick material and deadwood. Use Elmer's glue to protect from borer wasps. Some shaping of plants may be needed.	Mulch, pine bark, in particular, will wash off of many raised beds. Be sure to replace.
<p>Try washing plants for aphids, red spiders, and other bugs to see if this mild control will suffice. If inundated by pests, use methods that your conscience dictates. Check to see if additional feedings are necessary. Pull weeds as they appear. Later roots will be attached to some place in the Orient. Be sure roses will not be shaded too much. The trees will probably not miss a few limbs but the roses will appreciate some good sun. Pots should be checked daily and watered if necessary. Dry winds may demand that you check all beds on a 3 or 4 times a week basis.</p>						

2011 FWRS PROGRAMS

Keep an eye on the calendar for more details and/or changes.

All meetings are at 7:00 p.m., preceded by a hospitality time at 6:30, unless otherwise indicated.

Program V.P.'s Nan Garvin and Matt Orwat have done an outstanding job!

April 17– No regular meeting, but will have a Garden Party at the home of Linda Larkin, 4:00 p.m..

May 3 - Dr. Fouad Jaber: Water Conservation, Management, and Future Challenges.

May 7 (time TBA) - Rose Show.

June 7 - Barney Lipscomb: Murderous Plants: Poisonous Herbs.

July 5 - Jay Goode: Photographing Roses.

August 2 - Pam Smith: National Earth-Kind Trial Rose Garden (The Work We Do, Plus More)

September 6 - Claude Graves: Easy Teas.

October 4 - Vicki Agee: Fragrant Roses

October 21-23 - SCD Convention and Show in Farmers Branch, sponsored by FWRS and Dallas Rose Society.

November 1 - Jeff Myers: the State of the FWBG.

December 1 or a date near this, Christmas Party.

REGION 7 JUDGING SCHOOL American Rose Society, South Central and Gulf District Horticulture Rose Judging School Tyler, Texas May 14, 15th

For information contact:

Carolyn Hayward, 4201 Creek Falls Drive,
Corinth, TX 76208.

cghroses@verizon.net

Pho. 972-353-9525.



**Congratulation to our newest
Consulting Rosarian,
Herschell Fortner.**

2011 FWRS MEMBERS' SURVEY COMPILED AND EDITED BY LARRY WILEY

(All photos by L. Wiley, except 'Belinda's Dream' from <http://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu> and 'Neon Cowboy' from weeksroses.com.)

Thanks to the 18 responders to this year's survey. You have provided valuable information for fellow rose growers to use in their varietal choices and for the literature that the FWRS provides to the public about roses that do well in the North Texas area. It is true, of course, that just because a particular rose does well in one person's yard does not necessarily mean that it will do well in the yard of his neighbor across the street. Microclimates—variations in air, light, soil and water—can occur not only among neighboring yards but also within yards themselves. Nevertheless, the results listed below can give rose growers some guidance on selecting roses for their gardens, as well as possibly introducing them to new varieties.

The survey questions:

1. What types of roses do you grow? Also, indicate what you grow primarily.
2. What were your favorite 2 or 3 roses last year in each category above?
3. What roses disappointed you last year to the point of taking them out?

1. The data is broken down into three main sections, in a slightly different order from the original survey: Favorites, Types Grown, and Died/Took Out/Not Happy With.
2. Varieties selected as "Favorites" by more than one person are listed on the first line of each category, with the number of people choosing them in parenthesis. Following those, in alphabetical order, are the roses selected as a favorite by only one responder each. Climbers have been separated into a separate category. Polyanthas are listed with the floribundas.
3. I found the members' comments in the "Types Grown" section to be symbolic of our varied interests. An edited version of the ones I received are listed below, but I'm putting the complete comments on the website. Check them out, as I think you'll find them interesting.
4. Responses to question #3 above about "disappointments" were so varied that I expanded it to Died/Took Out/Not Happy With. It provides a little more information that way.

BRIEF OBSERVATIONS

The favorites in all categories really ran the gamut. The big winners of the survey were 'Belinda's Dream', mentioned by five responders, and the 'Knock Out' family and 'Double Knock Out' specifically, with five votes between them. (Note that, despite looking like a HT, 'Belinda's Dream' is listed as a shrub.) 'Sunny Knock Out' was not, however, a favorite, being named at least three times as a disappointment because of color fade.

In the HT/Gr category, there was an interesting mix of older and younger roses, with all but one of them ranked 8.0 or above in the ARS Handbook for Selecting Roses. (P. J. P. II has an interim rating of 7.5.)

As stated earlier, climbers chosen by members were placed in a different category, with the formidable climbers, 'Climbing Pinkie' and 'Peggy Martin', tying for top spot.

The four roses atop the Floribunda/Polyantha survey are all excellent roses for this area. Floribundas seem to be great favorites of local rosarians.

The shrub list is not surprisingly dominated by David Austin and Griffith Buck roses, most of which seem to do well here. It was interesting to see some lesser-known varieties listed.

Not many OGR's were singled out as favorites, although many of our members grow them. The ever-popular tea, 'Duchess de Brabant', was the not-unexpected favorite. Who can resist that fragrance and the elegant blooms nodding in the breeze?

The newest rose classification, Mini-Flora, had the fewest mentions. The varieties in this class, adopted by the American Rose Society in 1999, have blooms and foliage size between a miniature and a floribunda and will in time, in my opinion, become a great favorite among rosarians. The pink 'Ashton' in the photo is a great rose for me.

As for Miniatures, once again there was a nice mix of the old and new, with 'Neon Cowboy' (2001) and 'Starina' (1965) sharing top honors.



FWRS Rose Prose

FAVORITES

Hybrid Teas/Grandifloras (HT/Gr): 'Veteran's Honor' (3) [photo]; 'Double Delight' (2); 'Gemini' (2); 'Pope John Paul II' (2); 'St. Patrick' (2).
'About Face' (Gr); 'Cajun Moon'; 'Cajun Sunrise'; 'Chrysler Imperial'; 'Dolly Parton'; 'Fame!' (Gr); 'First Prize'; 'Fragrant Cloud'; 'Hot Princess'; 'Maggie'; 'Moonstone'; 'Mr. Lincoln'; 'Mrs. Oakley Fisher'; 'Oklahoma'; 'Oregon'; 'Paradise'; 'Proud Land'; 'Remember Me'; 'Solstice' (Gr); 'Sweetness' (Gr); 'Tahitian Sunset'.

Climbers: ‘Climbing Pinkie’ (Cl Pol) (3) [photo]; ‘Peggy Martin’ (found) (2).
 ‘Blaze’ (LCl); ‘Don Juan’ (LCl); ‘Dortmund’ (LCl); ‘Jeanne Lajoie’ (Cl Min);
 ‘Night Owl’ (LCl); ‘Red Cascade’ (Cl Min).



Floribundas (F) and Polyanthas (Pol): ‘Hot Cocoa’ (2) [photo]; ‘Nicole’ (2);
 ‘Playboy’ (2); ‘Trumpeter’ (2).
 ‘Angel Face’; ‘China Doll’ (Pol); ‘Cinco de Mayo’; ‘Europeana’; ‘Julia Child’;
 ‘La Marne’ (Pol); ‘Magenta’; ‘Nearly Wild’; ‘Scentimental’; ‘Sun Flare’;
 ‘Tequila’; ‘Valentine’; ‘White Out’.



Shrubs (S): ‘Belinda’s Dream’ (5) [photo]; ‘Knock Out’ family in general, except
 Sunny (3); ‘Double Knock-Out’ (2).
 ‘DayDream’; ‘Distant Drums’; ‘Eglantyne’ (Austin shrub); ‘Evelyn’; ‘Honeysweet’;
 ‘Iowa Belle’; ‘Jude the Obscure’; ‘Lilian Austin’; ‘Prairie Clogger’; ‘Scepter’d Isle’;
 ‘Spice’.



Old Garden Roses (OGR): ‘Duchesse de Brabant’ (T) (2) [photo];
 ‘Pink Pet’ (Ch) (2).
 ‘Autumn Damask’ (D); ‘Francis Dubreuil’ (T); ‘Martha Gonzales’ (found Ch);
 ‘Mutabilis’ (Ch); ‘R. banksiae lutea’ (Sp).



Mini-Floras (MinFl):
 ‘Ashton’ [photo]; ‘First
 Choice’; ‘Madeleine’.

Miniatures (Min): ‘Neon Cowboy’ (2) [photo]; ‘Starina’ (2).
 ‘Best of 04’; ‘Big John’; ‘Fairhope’; ‘Green Ice’; ‘Jean
 Kenneally’; ‘Peach Brandy’; ‘Playgold’; ‘Sunnydew’; ‘Sweet
 Chariot’.



(Cont. on next page.)

VARIETIES GROWN

Bena: Grows a variety of types in 24" pots.

Brown: My favorites are the old garden roses - easy and fragrant. I also have a few hybrid teas, some miniatures (I like them especially in pots), some floribundas (plan to get more), and some climbers.

Cashin: OGR climbers, HT's, a few floribunda's, miniatures, etc.

Childs: All varieties.

Clarke: Primarily S and F, but also HT/Gr, Min, MinFl, and OGR's.

Cole: All varieties.

Doke: Prefers David Austin for shape and smell; also has some HT's.

Hayward: Primarily MinFl; also HT/Gr, F, S, Min, OGR's, LCI, and Pol.

Jones, Concha: Shrubs and OGR's.

Larkin: I grow mostly shrubs but have a few of most kinds.

Lewis: OGR's.

Luttrell: Shrubs, floribundas, some minis.

McCarty: All types, but shifting to landscape types.

Mitchell: All except old garden roses. Mostly floribunda, hybrid tea and shrub roses.

Sanford: All types; mainly Min, MinFl

Stonecipher: Primarily Hybrid Teas/Grandiflora, with one climber, one "running rose," and one OGR.

Whitelaw: Mostly Old Garden Roses and a few old hearty Hybrid Teas.

Wiley: All varieties.

DIED/TOOK OUT/NOT HAPPY WITH

Bena: Lost a pink Earth-Kind rose.

Cashin: Least favorite is 'Crystalline'. Leaves are sparse, lots of bare canes. Has one more year to shape up.

Childs: Some of the 'Simplicities' are a real source of disappointment and I am replacing them with Earth-Kinds and 'Sun Flares'. The 'Sunny Knock Outs' don't hold their color long enough without fading.

Clarke: My 'Sunny Knock Out' did not perform well and eventually died and I replaced it with 'Grandma's Yellow Rose', which is doing well.

Doke: Problems with black spot on 'Mr. Lincoln' and 'Peace'. 'Mr. L.' looking poorly this spring. 'Peace' looking better.

Hayward: Took out 'Marilyn Monroe' (too much disease) and 'Solar Flair' (has trouble with summer heat).

Jones, Concha: Took out 'Mr. Lincoln'.

Larkin: Took out 'Vavoom'. That was a magnet for disease of every kind!

Luttrell: Pink 'Knock Outs' "puny". Buck roses 'Grace Note' and 'Silver Shadows' are less stellar, blooms seem inconsistent. Keeping all for now.

McCarty: 'Royal Canadian', 'Pope John Paul II', 'Quietness'—they died!

Stonecipher: Removed 'Helen Traubel' ("Giraffe-length" neck couldn't support bloom.)

Wiley: Took out 'Sunny Knock-Out'—not pleased with color fade. Also two 'Knock-Out' bushes that had not thrived and tended toward disease (against reputation).

ROSE RHETORIC: BLINDSHOOTS, BASAL BREAKS, ETC. BY RICH BAER, MASTER ROSARIAN

[This article was excerpted from one originally printed in the May 2010 issue of the Portland Rose Chatter, newsletter of the Portland (OR) Rose Society.]

One task that is being done out in the garden currently is removing all of the old canes that looked like they were going to be healthy when the first pruning was done. In the last two days I have removed two 64-gallon containers of canes that have now proven to be dead or so weak that no significant growth was emanating from them. It would not bother the rose if all of this stuff was left on the bushes, but as I always say, a garden should be beautiful, and anything that detracts from beauty gets removed and thrown away, if possible.

With the relatively long days and the damp weather

we have had perfect conditions for the appearance of several things into the garden that we really do not want to see. The most noticeable of course is black spot. My garden has a rather large number of leaves that have already fallen off from infection by black spot. A couple of sprays with one of the materials that are effective against black spot will turn this problem around so that the garden will look good by the end of May, or before.

One of the questions that I have been asked recently is what causes blind shoots. First of all you need to know what a blind shoot is. Almost every cane (stem) that grows on a

rose bush will eventually terminate in a reproductive structure, a flower bud. Sometimes, however, a stem will not produce a



flower bud at the tip but will just stop growing. This phenomenon is referred to as a shoot being blind, or a blind shoot. If you get into rose literature you will find

out that there are basically two totally different situations that are referred to as blind shoots.

The more common one can be found on almost every rose bush in the garden. Small stems will originate from the lower parts of

the canes, often in the center of the bush. These shoots may produce four or five leaves and then will stop growing without producing a flower bud, thus they may



be called a blind shoot. Plants are not altruistic beings in that they will not take care of the weak and unfortunate. If part of the plant cannot produce enough food to take care of its needs, the rest of the plant that may be very vigorous will not send excess food to that part of the plant that cannot produce enough food for its needs. When you walk through a wooded area you will notice that there are not branches on the trees near the ground. Branches that are cut off from the plant may be very healthy and doing well, those branches that cannot make enough food to support themselves eventually die, rot and fall off. If they can make just enough food to stay alive, they do just that, but grow very minimally. Eventually the branches above them will produce an even deeper shade, which will eventually result in their death. The same is true of these small shoots in the center of a rose bush. They cannot produce enough food to grow but do make just enough to survive. They do not act as parasites on the plant. They do not draw food to meet their needs from the rest of the plant. If they make less food than they need to survive they will eventually die and you will remove them the next time you prune. I have had some very intense rosarians criticize my garden for the presence of these small shoots on my roses, and it has often been suggested that they take food from the plant that would otherwise be used to produce more growth and flowers. It is possible that these small shoots could actually be supplying a small amount of food to the rest of the plant, but more than likely their presence is neutral, neither aiding the

overall growth of the plant, nor detracting from it. As far as what I do about these, if I am working around the base of the plant and have gloves on, I often just snap them off. I know that they are not going to grow and that I will eventually cut them off during pruning because of their small size, or because they are dead. I am not at all fanatical about this procedure.

The blind shoot that is much more noticeable to the average rose grower is not at the bottom of the plant, nor in the center of the plant, but on the top of the plant. The rose plant sends out vigorous new shoots that may grow anywhere from eight inches to one and one half feet that suddenly just terminate with no bud at the tip. This is very prevalent this year according to some rose enthusiasts that I have talked with, and there are quite a few examples in my garden as well. I often tell people that if the situation does not bother me, then I do not have it. I usually say that I do not have blind shoots, because if 10% of my rose shoots did not produce blooms it still would not be a very serious problem considering that I have almost 800 roses. If you have ten, bushes losing ten percent becomes much more noticeable. Certain rose varieties seem much more

prone to producing blind shoots at this time of year than are others. The condition is often blamed on cold weather following a warm spell, the cold causing the tip of the rose to stop growing and becoming blind. Some say that it is caused by a number of dark overcast days. There has never been any scientific study on this phenomenon, but it is just as likely that these could be the cause as any of a number of other factors. The positive thing about these types of blind shoots is that the plant reacts just as if it had produced a flower. New growth will come from the axils of the leaves below the tip, or in many cases the tip begins to grow again, often sending out multiple shoots. You can totally ignore these types of blind shoots, or you may prune the shoot as if a flower had formed and died. You can cut them back as far as you would usually do during deadheading. In a couple of weeks you will not know the difference.



Another question that I often get at this time of year is "How can I grow long stemmed roses?" By definition, the hybrid tea rose grows with a long stem with a single flower at the tip of that stem. Since I know that almost everyone who reads this probably has some experience with Hybrid Tea roses, I also know that with very few exceptions this is not the way the typical hybrid tea grows. When you drop into the local florist or grocery store there are bouquets of long stemmed roses for sale. Should we not be able to grow roses like this in our garden? The normal rose stem grows and produces a flower bud at the tip of the stem. However, almost every time they will also produce two or three smaller flower

buds just below the main bud. In addition to these buds the stem often produces buds from the 3 or 4 leaf axils beneath the terminal bud. If these smaller buds are allowed to mature, you



**Typical Rose Cane
With Side Buds**

never quite get that one beautiful rose on one stem. If you should happen to visit a rose show, you will find almost all of the blooms beautifully growing singly on the end of long stems. If you want to produce these long cutting stems you will

have to take some intervention in the garden. The process needed to achieve the desired effect is known as disbudding. To some people this process is too painful to carry out. The pain is mental however and not physical. To get those long stems it is necessary to remove all of the flower buds from



Same Stem, Buds Removed

along the stem except the terminal one. We did have a rose grower that got most of the story and took off all of the buds, including the terminal one, in order to produce the magnificent blooms he wanted, only to find out that he got no blooms at

all. So please do not remove all of the buds, just what we call the side buds. They are called this because they are at the side of the stem and not at its tip. The little stems below the buds should be quite "crisp" and a gentle push from the side will cause them to snap off. Any little residual stem will dry up and disappear before the flower blooms, so just ignore any little stubs that may be left after breaking the buds off.

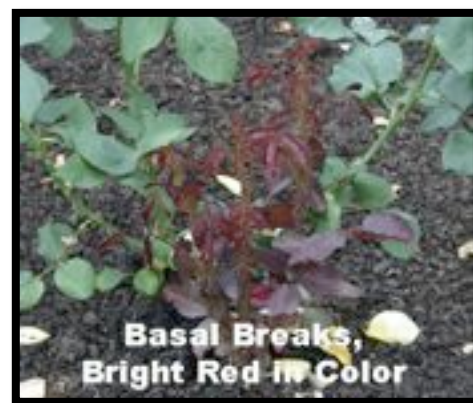
So now that you have figured out how to produce beautiful long stemmed roses, please bring some of them to show off at the rose show. The more roses at the show the better.

As our rose bushes grow there will come a time when most of the canes will end in a reproductive bud, what we know as a flower bud. As all of the vegetative tips of the plant turn into reproductive tips there is a change in the amount of plant hormone that is produced and sent down the stems of the plant. This plant hormone, auxin, controls the ability of buds lower down on the plant to grow. A high concentration inhibits the buds from growing; a low concentration allows the buds to begin growing. When you cut off the top of a stem, as when you are deadheading, you notice that very soon after the

pruning operation buds will begin to grow from the top two or three nodes on the bush. This is because the removal of the top of the stem cuts off all of the auxin at the point of the cut. Lower concentrations of the hormone at the top of the cut stem allow the buds just below the cut to begin growing. These new growing tips then produce auxin that keeps the rest of the buds even lower down on the stem from growing. So new growing tips then produce auxin that keeps the rest of the buds even lower down on the stem from growing. So when the plants basically have mostly reproductive tips present, the overall level of auxin in the plant is low. This allows buds which are quiescent (basically dormant) to begin growing. The result of quiescent buds growing may be basal breaks. A basal break is defined as a new stem which emerges from the bud union, (that part of the rose plant just above or below the ground where the graft was made), or within four inches of it. These new growths from this area are the future of the rose bush. These canes become the one-year-old canes that we prune back to next year while removing the older, less productive canes.

Despite the fact that these new basal breaks are wonderful there is also some confusion about them. Often times these new growths are extremely red and can be very rapidly growing. Most people have heard the word "sucker." In the case of roses, "sucker" is not a very good word to use, because what is known as a "sucker" is really a shoot from the rootstock, which on a grafted plant is usually one of a number of climbing type roses. These "sucker" shoots from the roots are often red and grow quite rapidly. I have seen people removing all of the basal breaks from their roses because they know that "suckers" are bad and since these new growths are red and grow very rapidly they must be "suckers." If you do not have lots of experience at looking at the two different types of growths from the bottom of rose bushes, here is a really strong suggestion as to what you should do. Treat all new growth on

your bushes as if they are the highly desirable basal breaks. If the new growth grows one foot above the general height of your rose bush and does not have a flower bud on the end of



**Basal Breaks,
Bright Red in Color**

it, you have a "sucker" and you should remove it. Do not cut it off. Cutting it will stimulate it to produce more sucker growth. Pull the sucker over to the side of the rose bush so that it is perpendicular to the bush and then with gloved hands pull it vigorously so that it rips away from the plant at its point of origin. "Suckers" are actually somewhat rare but they do occur and you should remove them when you are sure of what they are.

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