

ROSE GAZETTE

Northeast Louisiana Rose Society
October 2007

Thanks to Fran Beach

Special thanks go to Fran Beach for her gracious hospitality shown to the members of the NELA Rose Society on September 16th. We understand that it was a great meeting and tour of Logtown Plantation.

October meeting on the 14th.

The October meeting has been moved to October 14 (the second Sunday) at 3:00 P.M. in the home of Nan Woods. Directions: Take HWY 165 North to Finks Hideaway Road (turn right by Brookshires); go past Bayou Gymnastics, take the next left, which is Raymond Drive. Nan's home is 107 Raymond Dr; the second house on the left. Her name is on the mailbox.

Waco Bankston, a member of the Northeast Louisiana Rose Society will be our speaker at this meeting. His topic will be: "**Roses and Perennials.....Psychotherapy for Gardeners** "

For those of you that do not know Waco, he is the person responsible for the web site, <http://www.perennialandrosegardening.net/>. Waco has a wealth of knowledge about growing and caring for roses and is extremely talented with camera and computer. Hope all will come and hear what this very interesting and dynamic member has to tell us.

Run with Roses

Our members rose show and contest will again be held this month. Select your best Hybrid Tea; floribunda, floribunda spray, best mini or mini-flora bloom; shrub, old garden rose or make an arrangement to enter in our local competition and share the beauty of your roses with your fellow society members. Please refer to the schedule handed out earlier in the year that lists all categories you can enter. Bring your own bud

vase or drink bottle to exhibit. Polish the leaves with a soft cloth to remove any chemical residue or dust that might be on the leaves. To really show off your rose, use a piece of wedging material such as green floral foam, aluminum foil or plastic wrap or even a short piece of stem to hold the rose in a straight up-right position. This months challenge class is Rose in a Bowl - exhibition stage. Any old bowl will do.

Consulting Rosarian (CR) School Being Planned

A Consulting Rosarian School is being planned in conjunction with our annual Gulf District Mid-Winter Workshop, February 8, 9 & 10, 2008 at Mississippi State University in Starkville, Mississippi. The school is open to anyone who meets the requirements for CR status.

The individual must have been a member of the American Rose Society for three (3) consecutive years; as well as an active member of a local rose society and must have grown roses of various types for at least five (5) years and should be knowledgeable regarding rose culture. Complete the required application form and submit the application along with three (3) letters of recommendation from three (3) Consulting Rosarians to the Gulf District Consulting Rosarian Chairman, Linda Aguzin; 2003 Sugar Palm Drive; New Iberia, LA 70563. **December 15, 2007 is the last date to submit your application.**

If you have questions please e-mail Linda at malbaguzin@bellsouth.net or call her at 337-560-1336. The application form can be downloaded from the ARS web site: www.ars.org

There will be a registration fee for the CR school that will cover the cost of the Consulting Rosarian Manual.

Any CR who has let their CR status lapse should plan on enrolling in this school.

October Roses

By: Frank Hover

At last the weather is beginning to cool and our roses are responding beautifully, especially if we have done the routine steps to care and feed our gardens throughout the summer. This is the time of year when the challenging hobby of growing roses is most rewarding. It seems that the last few years our fall roses are even more spectacular than in spring and this year is no exception.

If the Rosarian is an exhibitor or just enjoys having cut flowers around the house there are a few tricks that will prolong the life of cut roses. I heard Buddy Harrelson say one time that the most important step in preserving roses was to get the stem in water within 5 to 10 seconds after cutting from the bush. We have repeatedly found this to be true. After bringing the cut roses inside, re-cut about ½ inch off the stem, under water, to restore capillary flow. Good sharp shears will lessen the chance of crushing and closing the capillaries. Commercial growers collect their roses in long baskets and carry them to the prep room without water. There they re-cut the stems under water and allow them to stand in warm water for an hour or so. The pH of this solution has been lowered to about 3.5, which encourages water uptake. Citric acid or vinegar is used to bring the pH down. After this conditioning, the roses are transferred to a solution of floral preservative such as Floralife. This preservative contains all the sugar and bacterial inhibitor the flower needs for a longer life. Home brew preservatives can be made by adding a few drops of household bleach and a tablespoon of sugar to a quart of water. Other mixtures that will work are 2 ounces of Listerine to a quart of water or Sprite diluted half and half. To lock in flowers for storage in a refrigerator, try Chrysal RVB. We have successfully stored good roses to use in a show for as long as a week using this product. Chrysal RVB and Floralife are available from Kimbrew –Walter (877-597-6737 (KW ROSES) and Rosemania. Leaving the lower leaves and thorns on the stem will lessen the chance of invasion by bacteria.

We try to cut our blooms in early morning or late afternoon. Experiments have shown that the sugar content of the rose stem reaches its peak a couple of hours before sunset. Actually it does not make too much difference when roses are cut if precautions are taken to rehydrate them, harden them off, and store them with a preservative.

If you really want to see some of the best roses being grown, attend one of the district or national rose shows and you will get a good idea of what God's most beautiful flower can look like with a bit of loving care from us.

Fall National Rose Show and Convention

By: Flora Hover

"Meet me in St. Louis", National Rose Show and Convention was an exciting and well-planned convention at the Millennium Hotel, across the street from the "Arch" and Bush Stadium, home of the St. Louis Cardinals. There were 374 registered enthusiastic Rosarians present. This was one of the larger conventions in the last few years.

Louisiana had 10 members present: Karen & Greg Constant; Phil & Abby Leonard from the Baton Rouge Society; Marilyn Wellan, CenLa Society; Frank & Flora Hover, Northeast Louisiana Rose Society; and from ARS headquarters in Shreveport our new Executive Director, Jeffery Ware, Carol Speirs, Assistant to the Director and Laura Pfender, Membership Chairman.

The five-day convention was filled with workshops, including a CR School, Arrangement Class, tours and outstanding speakers, great food and entertainment, vendors, a silent auction and door prizes. The opening reception was held in the Millennium's revolving restaurant with a tasting of local wines with Light hors d' oeuvres. There was truly something for everyone.

The "Name the Rose Raffle" that has been an annual event for several years at our National Conventions in which Eddie Edwards donates one of his roses to be named by some lucky individual was won this year by non-other than Frank Hover. Please plan on growing and showing this exciting new rose from Eddie Edwards that will be introduced in early 2009. Frank has been instructed to name it after his first and only wife, "Flo".

The show hall was filled with beautiful exhibition roses and a wide array of arrangements that would take your breath away. Frank and I had the honor of judging at this show – our third National Show to judge. It is truly a learning experience to judge with some of the best judges in ARS.

November Meeting

Mark your calendars now for November 11 the date for our November meeting. Eddie Edwards will be our guest speaker to discuss roses that he has hybridized. Jim Mills, owner of K & M Nursery will be here also with roses that Eddie has hybridized. You can request a list of roses from Mr. Mills and pre-order and he will bring them to the meeting.

You can contact Mr. Mills at millrose@netpathway.com or give him a phone call: 601-548-2908 Plans are that Marilyn Wellan will be at this meeting also.

November is an excellent month to plant roses so they will be established for this coming Spring Bloom.

December Meeting

Our annual Christmas meeting will be held at the home of Diane & John Smith in December. Date and time to be discussed. Members will be ask to bring their favorite holiday dish with the Smith's providing the entrée.

Winning Mini English Box – St. Louis



Winning Painters Pallet – St. Louis



Winning Mini Open Bloom – Mobile Jubilee



Winning Mini Arrangement



Officers

President -----Adele Ransom
Vice President -----John Smith
Treasurer-----Nan Woods
Editor Newsletter—Flora Hover

Consulting Rosarians

Flora & Frank Hover- -255-8158
Helen Roberts-----323-0383
Diane & John Smith----343-8977

Calendar

October 20 -----Fall Bloom Festival at American Rose
Center, Shreveport 8:30 –3:30

October 27 ----- New Orleans Rose Society Show, Metairie

November 3 & 4 –Southwest LA Rose Show, Lake Charles, LA

November 30----- December 26 ---- Christmas in Roseland,
Tuesdays-Sunday. Gates Open 5:30 – 10:30;
Last car admitted 9:30P.M.

December 15 -----Deadline for Application and Letters of
Recommendation for Consulting Rosarian
School due to Linda Aguzin (see article)

February 8 & 9 ---- Mid-Winter Workshop; Starkville, MS

February 8, 9 & 10-- Consulting Rosarian School Starkville, MS
In conjunction with Mid-Winter Workshop

April 18 & 19, 2008 ----Gulf District Rose Show & Convention

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Northeast Louisiana Rose Society
103 Adam Circle
Ruston, LA 71270