



March - April 2012

# THE CAPITAL ROSE

A publication of the Arlington Rose Foundation  
and the Potomac Rose Society.  
Affiliated with the American Rose Society.



## ARF MONTHLY MEETING

**Sunday, March 11, 2012, 2:00 p.m.**  
**Merrifield Garden Center - Fair Oaks**  
**Spring into Big, Beautiful,**  
**Bountiful Rose Blooms**

Seminar by David Maxwell, Rose Expert and Researcher. Learn how to get your garden started. Door prize. Free. Light Refreshments.

\*\*\*\*\*  
**MORE ARF EVENTS ON PAGE 4**  
\*\*\*\*\*

## PRS MONTHLY MEETINGS

### NOTE NEW DATE AND LOCATION

**Sunday, March 25, 2012, 2:00 p.m.**  
**Franciscan Monastery**  
**1400 Quincy St. NE, Washington, DC**  
**ALL ABOUT PRUNING ROSES**  
**with In-garden Demonstration**

Master Rosarian Mike Berger will describe how to prune rosebushes to maximize good growth and encourage plentiful blooms. He will discuss pruning techniques for hybrid teas, floribundas, climbers, OGRs, shrubs, and minis. Indoor discussion, to be followed (weather permitting) by outdoor demonstration on garden rosebushes. Bring your pruning shears. Light refreshments. See <http://myfranciscan.org> and scroll over "About Us" to find directions from your location.

\*\*\*\*\*  
**Thursday, April 19, 2012, 7:30 p.m.**

**Rockville Senior Center**  
**1150 Carnation Drive, Rockville, MD**  
(5-10 min. from I-270 at MD Rt. 28)  
**Everyone Can Grow Roses!**

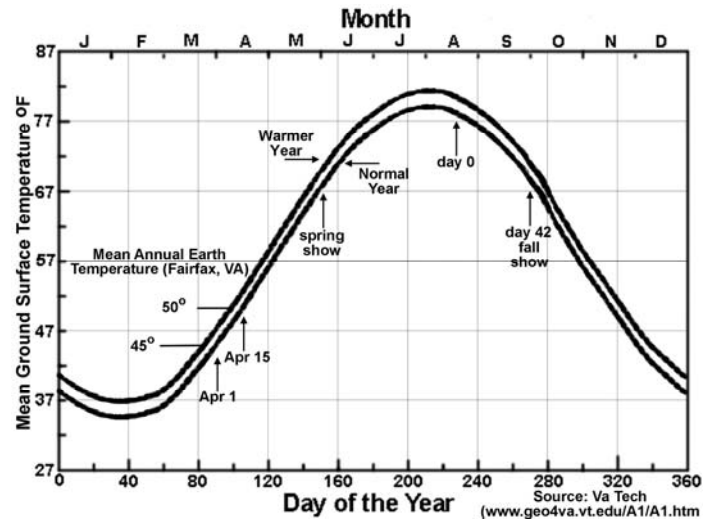
**Nick Weber, PRS Consulting Rosarian**  
Nick will describe easy care rose varieties (not just **Knock Out**) and a basic rose care program with minimal spraying.

## **Timing Pruning for Rose Shows**

*by Dave Maxwell, ARF and PRS Consulting Rosarian*

Timing our pruning to provide perfectly formed blooms in time for major rose shows, seems like a hit and miss situation for most. When to prune in order to get blooms at their ideal stage to show has many variables including rose type, depth of cut, and weather (temperature). In this article, I concentrate on **soil temperature**.

We have all observed the major rose shows in this region are either in the spring or fall. Few if any occur in the summer, and for a good reason: the temperature is too darn hot (I hope some



NY congressman doesn't pick this up as a campaign slogan). Rose bushes struggle when daytime temperatures stay in the 90's or higher with night time temperatures also in the 90's. We may try to assist with an occasional cooling mid-day spray, but alas, to no avail.

Let's examine the mean annual surface ground temperature variation in Fairfax as shown in the lower curve in the figure. Observe the minimum occurs in early February while the maximum occurs in early August at about 80°F. I have also shown a warmer than normal year temperature variation as the upper curve - we'll examine the effects of this shortly. The air temperatures lead this trend with highs in the 100s in late July/early August. Notice the nominal dates of our typical spring and fall rose

*(Continued on page 6)*

**Arlington  
Rose  
Foundation**

**Executive Officers**

**President**

Pam Powers  
703-371-9351  
Pam1Powers@aol.com

**First Vice President**

Dick Smith  
703-451-8248  
smithdac@cox.net

**Second Vice President**

Joe Dysart  
703-532-7765  
alfredjdysart@cs.com

**Secretary**

Judy Albert  
703-978-0838  
judy.albert@verizon.net

**Treasurer**

Sheri Mirilovich  
703-620-5825  
sjmirilovich@aol.com

**Membership**

1 year \$15  
2 years \$26  
3 years \$33

The term of membership begins on January 1<sup>st</sup>; dues for new members who join between June 1<sup>st</sup> and December 31<sup>st</sup> will carry them through the following year, at no extra charge. Payment should be sent to:

**Mary A. King-Taylor,  
Membership Chair**  
13933 Leeton Circle,  
Chantilly, VA 20151  
kt703@verizon.net

*The Capital Rose*

**Editor**

Joe Covey, PRS  
831 Azalea Drive  
Rockville, MD 20850  
301-279-0028  
coveyj@earthlink.net

**WELCOME NEW  
MEMBERS!**

**ARF**

M.D. Mozannal Hoque &  
Fouzia Nasreen Vienna, VA  
Stacey Martin Dumfries, VA

**PRS**

Len Bowman Ellicott City, MD  
Jena Hom Ellicott City, MD

**PHOTO CREDITS**

Page 1 Franciscan Monastery Judi Schmitt  
Page 4 Bon Air Mem. Garden Pam Powers  
Page 8 **Paula Smart** palatineroses.com  
**Pelé** ”  
**Manou Meilland** ”  
Page 9 Judy Webster Pam Powers  
**Abraham Darby** Pam Powers  
Page 12 National Garden Map www.usbg.gov

**Websites**

**ARF**

[www.arlingtonrose.org](http://www.arlingtonrose.org)  
Ellen Davidson  
[ellen.davidson@comcast.net](mailto:ellen.davidson@comcast.net)

**PRS**

[www.potomacrose.org](http://www.potomacrose.org)  
Steve Gavey  
[sgavey@earthlink.net](mailto:sgavey@earthlink.net)

**Potomac  
Rose  
Society**

**Executive Officers**

**President**

Joe Covey  
301-279-0028  
coveyj@earthlink.net

**First Vice President**

Michael Berger  
703-848-1942  
emamike@aol.com

**Second Vice President**

Jay Jensen  
301-460-1793  
belpre46@comcast.net

**Secretary**

Kathryn George  
301-869-4948  
kay.george@verizon.net

**Treasurer & VP  
for Membership**

Joe Covey  
301-279-0028  
coveyj@earthlink.net

**Annual Membership Dues:**

Regular \$15 per year  
Sponsor \$25 per year  
Patron \$50 per year  
Send payment to:

**Joe Covey**

831 Azalea Drive  
Rockville, MD 20850

\*\*\*\*\*

Membership is also encouraged in the **American Rose Society (ARS)**, dues for which are \$49 per year (\$46 for those 65 and older). To join ARS, send dues to: **American Rose Society, P.O. Box 30,000, Shreveport, LA 71130** (or see [www.ars.org](http://www.ars.org))

# ARF President's Message

*Pam Powers*

It is pure joy to collaborate with you and deliver events for rose lovers and enthusiasts this year. Arlington Rose Foundation has a proud heritage and prominent content resources that include: a dozen Consulting Rosarians, national and international judges, a rose researcher, three nationally acclaimed hybridizers, regionally renowned photographers, a rose poet, former regional and national American Rose Society officers, nursery owners/managers, several "Top Gun" exhibitors, Master gardeners and rose hobbyists. All of us are connected by our willingness to share and learn more about rose culture. My vision is a very aspirational model of shared knowledge, volunteerism and thriving membership for Arlington Rose Foundation.

To that end, we kicked off a blustery winter's day with an incredibly entertaining program and a book signing by author Stephen Scanneillo. Members and guests turned out in droves to hear our speaker weave tales about the myths and lore of roses. Other opportunities to participate and to take advantage of your ARF member benefits include:

- ❖ **Country Store** - Rose products are sold at near wholesale prices. SAVES YOU MONEY!
- ❖ **Expert speakers programs** - Offered on focused rose topics
- ❖ **Garden tours** - Fun events are organized and hosted for your enjoyment.
- ❖ **Volunteer events** - Partner with experts to sell roses at local nurseries.
- ❖ **Charity events** - Public education on rose culture is provided to benefit the charitable garden guilds at the Franciscan Monastery and National Cathedral in DC.
- ❖ **Rose Show**- Showcase your beautiful blooms and photography for awards.
- ❖ **Pruning events** - Learn how to maximize your rosebush growth and bloom potential.
- ❖ **Photography contest** - Compete for a cash prize in the gardens of Franciscan Monastery.
- ❖ **Affiliation with American Rose Society** - As a new member, you will receive two copies of acclaimed ARS magazine and free admission for certain gardens nationwide.
- ❖ **Rose garden consultation** - Receive garden-side advice from a rose expert.
- ❖ **Rosebush auction and cutting giveaway** - November madness!

Details and contacts for specific events are listed on our website at [www.arlingtonrose.org](http://www.arlingtonrose.org). Near term events details are outlined in this issue of the newsletter. Set aside some time to pursue and share your rose interests by volunteering and participating. Bring your family and friends to join in, anytime.

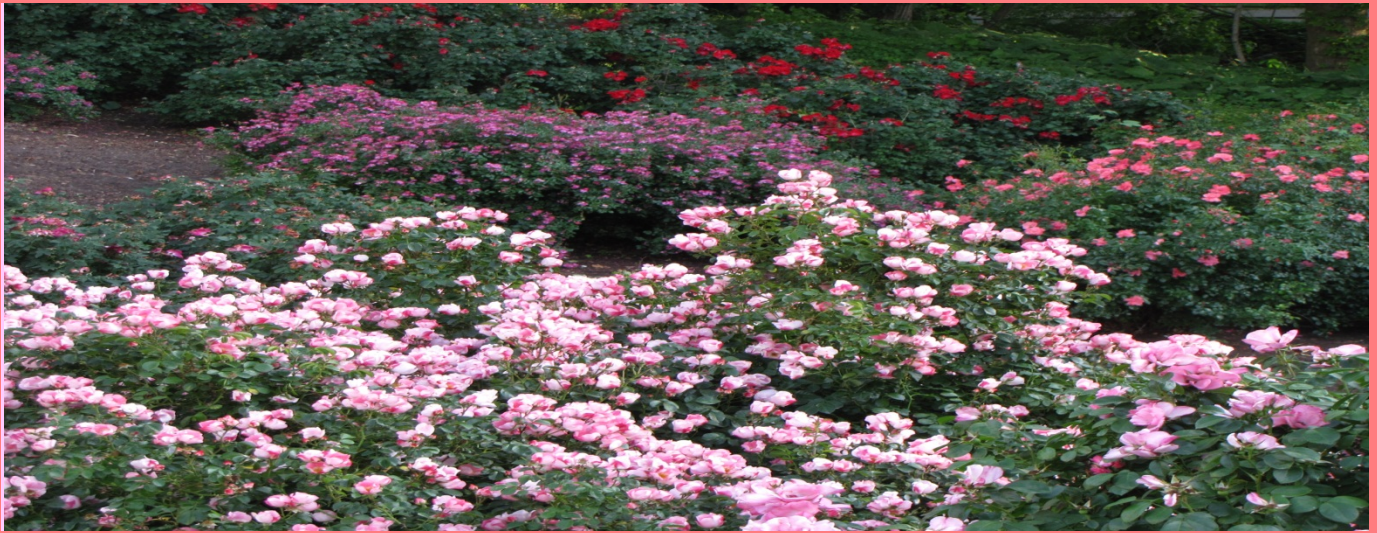
## Arlington Rose Foundation Volunteers needed!

Weekends, April 21, 22, 28, 29 and May 6, 12 13 - Learn from rose experts the traits and care of roses by participating in sales assists on weekends at Merrifield Garden Center, Fair Oaks, Merrifield and Gainesville locations. Arlington Rose Foundation hat or visor offered as token of appreciation. 5 more volunteers needed.

Friday, May 4 and Saturday, May 5 - Enjoy the National Cathedral grounds and hundreds of embassy floral designs at FlowerMart - 4 hour volunteer timeframes. Paid parking offered. 6 more volunteers needed.

Saturday, September 22 and Sunday, September 23 - ARF and PRS will host the Fall Rose Show in conjunction with the Colonial District Meeting. Show at Merrifield, meeting at Fair Oaks Marriott. Dozens of volunteers needed. See article on page 10.

Let us hear from you soon. Contact Pam at 703-371-9351 or e-mail: [pam1powers@aol.com](mailto:pam1powers@aol.com) or Dave at 703-860-0071 or e-mail: [davesroses@yahoo.com](mailto:davesroses@yahoo.com)



## **March & April Activities - Arlington Rose Foundation**

### **March 10, Saturday**

1:00 PM, Pruning lecture and demonstration in the garden of Ernie Earman, Hybridizer of Let Freedom Ring Hybrid Tea Rose, 108 W. Walnut St. Alexandria, VA. Bring your clippers for cleaning and sharpening. Either meet at Merrifield Garden Center, side entrance at Noon and ride with Bill Blevins - or - meet at Ernie's at 1:00.

### **March 11, Sunday**

2:00 PM, Seminar "Spring into Big, Beautiful, Bountiful Blooms", Speaker, published researcher, and rose expert, David Maxwell at Merrifield Garden Center, Fair Oaks location. Light refreshments. Door prizes!

### **March 17, Saturday**

10:00-1:00 pm, Pick up Country store items at Sam's Farm located at 7129 Leesburg Pike, Falls Church, VA. Off I-66 take ramp for 495N to Baltimore, then take Exit 47B to Rt. 7 East toward Falls Church. After 2 miles, Sam's Farm is on the right. Get last-minute orders in now. See the form on p. 11 of the Jan-Feb newsletter. Almost wholesale prices. Great bargains for quality products!

### **March 25, Sunday**

2:00 PM, Pruning lecture and demonstration in the garden of Joan and Art Von Herbulis, 10510 Oak Place, Fairfax, VA. Bring your clippers for cleaning and sharpening. Joan and Art have integrated gardens and Bill Blevins will demonstrate pruning techniques for all types of roses and plants. See you there!

### **April 22, Sunday**

2:00 PM, Seminar "Going Green with Roses." Speaker: LeeAnn Seeley, noted organic Gardener, at Merrifield Garden Center Fair Oaks location. Light refreshments. Door prizes!

# March - April 2012

## Rose Garden Checklist

By Dave Maxwell, ARF & PRS Consulting Rosarian

Calling all rosarians!!! I hate to be the big Grinch but it's time to take a big yawn, stretch those muscles, and head outside, for arguably the busiest time of the year is about to descend on us. We have lots of things to do to set the stage for great roses, like pruning, weeding & cleanup, spraying, feeding, planting, and don't forget watering. Sure, they'll survive if we ignore them, but, like children, if we care for them they may grow up to be Queen. So let's get to it.

### Pruning

Spring pruning for me in Fairfax starts St. Patrick's Day and is completed (well) before March 30 (see the companion article on timing for spring rose shows).

When pruning remember the 'three D's' - dead, diseased & damaged stems. Remove the dead stems and cut the diseased and damaged back to good wood. For hands on training on how to prune come to one of our pruning demonstrations in March.

### Weeding & Cleanup

While you're pruning also pull up any weeds and clean the beds of all the leaves that have fallen over the winter. These are breeding places for disease. If you mounded some mulch over the bud union for winter protection last fall, leave it in place for now, for several reasons: there is still a possibility for a killing frost, this will be needed later to cover the fertilizer, and we don't want to shield the sun from warming the earth around the drip line.

While you're down on the ground, check your pH. Since you limed last fall, as recommended in the Nov/Dec Checklist, it should be in the 6.5 to 6.7 range. If it's around 6.3 or lower apply some more lime now; about 1 cup of pulverized Dolomitic limestone per 30 inch diameter bush will raise the pH by 1 point (say from 5.5 to 6.5). Use a proportional amount to get the change you want.

I make the rounds again, in mid April after my first major fertilization (see below), to inspect for further need to prune. At this time I carefully move the mounded winter mulch from the bud union (taking care not to harm any basal breaks) and use it to cover the fertilizer I just applied. Inspect the graft or bud union for bark that may impede basal breaks. Rough bark surfaces should be gently scraped off with a tooth brush, being careful not to destroy any latent buds. Re-covering the bud union with some mulch for an additional few weeks will help keep it moist to encourage basal breaks.

### Spraying

Immediately after pruning, spray with a contact fungicide containing the active ingredient mancozeb and sold under various product names like Mancozeb, Manzate, Dithane or Pentathlon. Spray all surfaces of the branches and surrounding ground/support structures. This will kill any lingering fungi. A week later start your normal spray program using mancozeb and a systemic fungicide (Honor Guard, Infuse, or Cleary's 3336) mixed together in the same spray mixture. If the spring is abnormally wet use Cleary's on a one week interval to combat powdery mildew and botrytis.

Incidentally, I like to apply a dormant spray of lime sulfur in January/February before any evidence of new growth. It is too late to do this after receiving this newsletter as any new growth will be killed. The combination of the winter lime sulfur and post-pruning mancozeb sprays will reduce the severity of infections later in the year. If you missed the winter dormant spray, don't worry, but don't skip the mancozeb.

Later in April and into May inspect for unwanted insects. Identify them and select a spray specifically targeting them. Some pests to look for include:

Aphids colonize and feed on new growth of some roses. They are easily controlled locally with water spray, or the organic insecticide, Safer Insect Killing Soap. Merit is an over kill as it targets the beneficial insects as well.

Rose slugs (the larvae stage of the sawfly wasp) are small green (1/2 inch long) caterpillars which feed on leaves which they will skeletonize if left untreated. They are easily controlled by hand picking or spraying with Merit.

Midge are small (1/8 inch) flying insects whose larvae feed on emerging buds which then wither and die, leaving a bush with few if any flowers. They must be controlled aggressively by spreading granular Bayer Complete Insect Killer (available at Lowe's) on the ground surrounding the bush.

Spider mites feed on the underside of leaves which turn bronze and stippled. They can be detected by tapping lower leaves over a sheet of white paper. They will fall and appear as specks. Control by washing off with a stream of water, or spray with Avid or Tetra San.

Thrips are very active tiny winged insects that normally appear in May. They hide inside the blooms, sucking sap from the pedicels, leaving brown spots. Spray buds with spinosad (the active ingredient in Monterey Garden Insect Spray).

### Feeding

When should our first feeding be? Some say in early March while the roses are about to break dormancy, other say just after pruning and still others wait until about mid April or later, after the ground has warmed up.

One noted authority, Dr. Tommy Cairns, past president of ARS, says, in *The Art and Techniques of Rose Pruning* reprinted in the March 2001 issue of *The Arlington Rose Review*, "Avoid fertilization until about three or four weeks after pruning". Now that should make many of you stand up and take notice, as it certainly flies in the face of conventional wisdom as practiced by many, but not all, in this region.

But let's take a minute to understand the rationale (mine and maybe Tommy's) behind this recommendation. As recommended above we start pruning about mid March, St. Patrick's Day, and finish within a week but no later than the end of March. Sometime during this period many of the roses should be breaking dor-

(Continued on page 6)

*(Continued from page 5) Checklist*

mancy, with modest leaflets forming by late March to early April. The energy to form these leaves comes from sugars stored in the roots & stems since last fall. Until these leaves develop, there is little or no photosynthesis going on in the rose's factories (the leaves) and therefore no uptake of nutrients - no fertilizer required, thank you. As the leaves develop further, the photosynthesis factories slowly swing into action and the plant slowly takes up nutrients to fuel the factories, which in turn expands the factories. This build up continues as more factories (leaves) come on line through all of April and May. The more leaves, the more the demand for fuel - fertilizer. A healthy soil amended as recommended throughout the year is more than capable of sustaining the factories' growth during this startup phase, probably at least until mid April. Any nitrogen fertilizer supplied during or before this startup period, will mostly be wasted.

All of the above assumes your roses went into dormancy last fall with a full set of leaves in place. This is necessary to fill the store house with sugars for vigorous growth the following spring. If not, your roses will struggle in the spring due to inadequate stores and need some fertilizer to prime the growth.

My recommendation is for a small dose of liquid fertilizer about April 1. Specifically, use Jack's or Peters (they are the same) 10-30-20, 1 tbsp per gallon, one gallon per bush. These are 50% nitrate-N and 50% ammoniacal-N, both forms taken up by plants, providing an immediate boost if needed for plant use. If the rose doesn't need it, the nitrogen will be lost, but the phosphorous and potassium will still be available as needed. It is just good insurance.

Then by the end of the first or second week in April start your regular fertilizer program. I apply organics: a balanced fertilizer, kelp meal, alfalfa meal and fish meal. Others may use Osmocote (9 month) 18-5-12. Still others a combination. **Attention Osmocote users: do not apply the above Jack's 10-**

**30-20 April 1**, instead apply Osmocote the first or second week of April. After this major fertilization, remove the mulch that remains mounded over the bud union, and use this to cover the fertilizer.

### **Planting**

The bare root roses you ordered earlier should have arrived. Unwrap them and dip - roots and stems - in a 10% Clorox bleach solution (about 2/3 to 1 cup in 5 gallons of water) for about 30 to 60 seconds to kill any bacteria causing gall. Let them dry, then soak roots overnight in a 5 gallon container of water laced with 3 to 4, 325 mg aspirin (to stimulate the bush's immune system) and 2 tsp SUPERthrive (to stimulate growth).

These should be planted the next day either in beds you prepared last fall or in pots. I prefer pots, as this gives me the opportunity to move them from the sun to a protected area if freezing weather is expected. It also provides more opportunity to observe performance, color, growth habit to better choose the preferred planting location.

### **Watering**

Roses need about 1 inch of water per week (that's 3 gals over the drip line of a 30 inch diameter bush or 8 gals over the drip line of a 48 inch diameter bush). This should be increased to 2 inches of water when fertilizing heavily, as above, and in very hot weather, >85°F. That means 2 inches from April 15 to about October 15, and 1 inch the rest of the growing season. Nature will not always comply with this requirement; get a rain gauge. Over the winter roses need about one half inch of water. I have been known to water my roses in the winter (2010-2011 for example was very dry)!

If you have followed these steps, April will bring rapid growth to your roses. Inspect them daily. Notice emerging growth from bud eyes. If you see clusters of growth from multiple bud eyes at the same location finger prune the weak ones, leaving the strongest one to grow.

*(Continued from page 1) Pruning for Shows*

shows. They fall on dates where the ground temperatures are nearly identical, about 68°F, for years with normal temperatures. The only difference is what goes on prior to the show. For the fall show the ground (and air) temperatures start high and decline, and for the spring show they start low and increase. As we'll see this is a major consideration in deciding when to prune.

### **Fall Shows**

Notice from the figure, for the fall shows, ground temperatures on average range from about 79°F when we prune, to about 68°F at the time of the show, the ideal range to support rapid growth in roses. The microbes responsible for mineralizing nutrients for rose consumption are active and happy. The air temperatures are coming off their highs with warm days and cooler nights. With air and ground temperatures generally optimum for growth, one of the uncertainties - temperature - referred to earlier in determining when to prune has been removed, notwith-

standing the occasional hurricane. Furthermore, since your summer pruning was limited to just dead heading spent blooms leaving a maximum amount of foliage, the bushes have had their photosynthesis 'factories' running at capacity, resulting in healthy bushes spring loaded for optimum performance going into the fall.

With temperature dependence out of the picture, when to prune, is primarily dependent on the rose variety, how deeply you prune, the maturity of the bud to which you prune, and variation in shade during the day (from trees or other obstacles). We can get some guidance on the best pruning date from exhibitors in this region who have taken notes from their trials over the years. Generally, the prune to bloom cycle ranges from 39 to 45 days for most HTs, with some like Pristine being a few days shorter, and others slightly longer. Minis average less. Varieties with lots of petals take longer to bloom than varieties with fewer petals. Floribunda sprays take longer than

*(Continued on page 7)*

floribunda single blooms.

For new exhibitors I recommend you use this data as a starting point for your pruning. Count backward about 42 days from the date of your primary target show to establish your pruning date for HTs. [This year the Colonial District show is Sept 22 so pruning August 11 plus or minus 3 days would be advised.] If you have multiple bushes of the same variety prune one 3 days earlier, another 3 days later, and one at 42 days. Then, and this is key, keep accurate notes of the prune to bloom time for each bush from which you intend to exhibit and its location in your garden. The blooms on a given bush will reach exhibition stage at different times providing a spread of times, so keep a record of those times. Do this over multiple years and you will have a good handle on when to prune for the bushes you intend to exhibit. Also make a note of your fertilization program in case you make changes in future years that may affect performance.

### Spring Shows

Now look at the timing of the spring show on the temperature variation figure, normally the first week in June. From the figure note the April 1 date, when you should have finished your spring pruning. There are 64 days from April 1 to the spring rose show (June 4 last year); even longer for bushes pruned earlier in March as recommended. Contrast this minimum 64 day spring prune to bloom time with the fall average prune to bloom time of 42 days.

Clearly another factor is in play for the spring show that wasn't for the fall show - soil temperature. Notice from the chart, the average nominal ground temperature for Fairfax is just coming off its winter lows in late February early March, and doesn't really start climbing in earnest until late March early April. Since our bushes have no (or few) leaves, the initial growth is fueled by sugars stored in the bush's vascular system from the previous fall's photosynthesis. Finally when ground temperatures reach around 50°F, the soil organisms that convert fertilizers and soil organics to nutrients in plant usable form, become active enough to provide sufficient nutrients to support active growth. Our spring rose shows have traditionally been scheduled in early June to coincide with the normal temperature cycle. If we have a warmer spring than the norm, the curve shifts upward as shown in the figure. This effectively moves the temperature variation to the left, requiring that we move our show earlier as well. Similarly if we have a colder spring than the norm, the curve shifts to the right and we need to schedule our rose show later. But don't base your pruning on our show date - always prune in March. Temperature is the limiting factor in prune to bloom time in spring.

Pruning should normally start when the buds begin to swell but before any substantial new growth. Unfortunately, this guidance is insufficient, since as I write this article (February 18) my roses already have new growth. There is a good chance that we will still have a hard frost sometime soon, which would kill off any new growth stimulated by the pruning. The decision of when to prune in spring is a compromise between the start of new growth and the probable last killing frost. For me in Fairfax that is around St. Patrick's Day; some use the time the Forsythia blooms as their trigger. Climbers are usually earlier - the first week of March. You may have different micro-climates in your yard as well. For example bushes in a Southern exposure against a foundation or brick wall will sprout growth earlier. In any case your pruning should be completed by the end of March. Even then there may be some damage to new growth by freezing weather in April - just do touch-up pruning as needed in April.

Some have delayed pruning to as late as April 15, well after substantial new growth has occurred, in an attempt to micro-manage the timing of spring blooms. This is wrong. Don't even consider delaying your spring pruning this late, short of health reasons. You are just asking for trouble by interrupting the spring growth cycle, effectively destroying all the partially constructed photosynthesis factories, during such a critical development cycle. Your roses will struggle to make a comeback and will embarrass you for such indiscretion.

### Summary

Considerations for when to prune for a rose show are completely different for spring and fall shows.

For spring shows when to prune is the same for everyone, whether you show or don't show, everyone should prune in mid March and be finished no later than April 1. Exhibitors are completely at the mercy of the weather and the rose show scheduling committee, all other things being equal. When we prune will have little effect on when they bloom, except of course if we delay well into the growth cycle, destroying all those developing photosynthesis factories.

For fall shows when to prune is independent of temperature, and dependent solely on the genetics of the plant, how deeply we prune, the maturity of the bud to which we prune, and shade variations with microclimates and fertilizer program being secondary. Learn how long it takes for each variety you plan to exhibit to get to exhibition stage blooms after pruning. Then count back from your primary show to determine your average pruning date for each bush.

Good luck!

# BILL'S ROSE NOTE BOOK



by *Bill Blevins*

ARF Consulting Rosarian

Hi Folks – yes the calendar says it's still winter. January was about 4°+ above normal. Mild days, but out

here we still get frost nearly every morning. Let's not forget that 2002 was milder and we had some late freezes in April and May. 2006 was about the same as this winter, but late frosts were not uncommon with some damage. 'Tis the season for micro-climate comparisons. In some areas we see winter jasmine more advanced, daffodils blooming two weeks or more early, but ironically crocus are not that much earlier. Flowering quince are in full bloom some places, some not. I've seen bushes where half the plant is full bloom (sunny side) and the other half quite normal with faint color. I did note that some geese, cardinals, and bluebirds paired off in January but are not nesting yet. In the wild, my reporters and I have observed ajuga, ground ivy, various chickweeds, sun-favored violets and the recently identified sky-blue birds-eye speedwell all having sent forth late winter, pre-spring blooms. See, nature's best teachers are still wary. We're still the students, okay.

I have been touring Palatine Roses online catalog. That will be the focus of this article. I have been dealing with this firm directly and indirectly for many years. Carl Paltek Roses is the former owner and he mentored the present owners on quality production of roses on *multiflora* understock. This is the understock of choice for our Mid-Atlantic area. I'd like to review some of their inventory. The online listings are dated and some varieties are sold out. The ones I'm including are listed as still available.

Minifloras on Multiflora. **Fairhope, So-roptimist International** and **Irresistible** would be awesome on understock and they have **Paula Smart** (photo, right), a hard



to find red blend, 2009 int. from Jalbert (B.C., Canada).

The still very good grandiflora, **Gold Medal** and the hard-to-find orange-blend GR, **Vera Johns** are available.

Floribundas – apricot blend, recent Jalbert int. **Royal City Rose** promises bloom size and form. **Shocking Blue** – a florist rose that does equally well in the garden. This oldie has great form and a grape juice coloration with a hint of “off blue” cast. I used it exclusively in the painters pallet for many years.



Large Flowering Climber (LCL) – **Pelé**, great form for a climber in a creamy white (photo). Good repeat bloom. Did you know this one was hybridized by Frank Benardella and int. in 1979?

HTs – **Flaming Beauty**, a Winchel rose and his first major HT int. in 1978 by Kimbrew-Walter Roses. Mel Albert and I had some of the first plants of this **First Prize** offspring. Has once won Queen at the District level with this one.

**Manou Meilland** (photo, left)– good form, very healthy foliage and superb fragrance. Had it for years. A 1977 int. I used in collections. Always won w/this deep mauve blend.

**Ivory Tower** – Kordes 1979 int. Creamy white and high centered. Mel Albert had three in a very well matched

trio once and the Judges let it prevail over my entry notwithstanding a cloud of thrips. Sorry Mel – I tend to tell it like it is.

**Anne Morrow Lindbergh** – a beauty of pink/yellow blend w/perfect form. Holds very well. In my opinion an extremely underrated rose. A great hybridizing rose. Randy Scott had one in his discard bucket once and I groomed it and entered it for him – told him I'd make a believer out of him – King of the Show. He believed.

**Thriller** – probably Dennis Bridges' best HT int. Very high centered pink/white blend w/ **Flaming Beauty** and **First Prize** in its parentage. On multiflora, a fabulous exhibition rose.

(Continued on page 9)



## Members' Rose Journeys

A compilation of member submissions and interviews

by Pam Powers, ARF President

Did you ever wonder what started a fellow member on their journey of adoring roses?

### Judy Webster, Arlington Rose Foundation member since 2002

Sipping tea in my living room, Judy Webster recollects her fascination with roses. Her memories begin with her childhood enjoyment of her grandmother's **New Dawn** roses climbing the fences of her home in Providence, Rhode Island. Fast forward to adulthood and an innocent Garden Club outing that included a stop at Arlington Rose Foundation's Mel Albert's home where she saw rose bushes with dinner-plate-sized blooms. At that point, Judy was hooked on roses.

Spaced constrained, Judy bought **Bonica** and **Angel Face**, as potted roses for her balcony. She attended an advertised pruning demonstration and her interest in roses swelled. Judy explains, "I dug up my front yard and planted roses. When I moved from Arlington to Upperville, Virginia, I took my roses with me. Then, when I moved from Virginia to North Carolina, I dug up my thirty some rosebushes and took them with me, again. I had to. They are part of me."

Her sisters share in her love of roses and together they have taken fun-filled trips to England with numerous rose garden stops, including the Royal National Rose Gardens and Sissinghurst Castle Garden. Typical of a generous gardener, Judy shared

those experiences many years ago in this very publication. It is no wonder that Judy has a fondness for David Austin's English Rose, **Abraham Darby**, a lusciously large, highly fragrant rose filled with over a hundred peach-pink petals.

Judy could talk roses all day. She honored the memory of ARF's late Randy Scott by purchasing his namesake rose, hybridized by his friend John Smith. She shared her fond memories of learning about rose culture from Bill Blevins and Bob and Linda Knerr. (Bob and Linda, also, now reside in North Carolina.) She enjoyed contributing as Secretary and Newsletter Editor for ARF when she lived in the area. Judy continues as an avid rose lover and faithful Arlington Rose Foundation supporter and we are appreciative of both endeavors. We look forward to her stopping by for tea and fond memories, anytime!



(Continued from page 8) Bill's Notebook

**Lucille Ball** – 1991 apricot blend. Horizon Roses once touted this one as the 2nd coming of **Touch of Class**. Hardly, but it would put out about 6-8 blooms a year on a so-so plant. Great form and slow but determined opening. I had one at a Tidewater fall show that had Judges and exhibitors alike drooling. Got a blue and was left on the entry table by mistake at the Court selection time. I had the Queen anyway – (**Artistry**) Really! But the eyes were on Lucille Ball – the perfect rose that day.

Also listed by Palatine are **Dublin**, **Moonstone**, **Dolly Parton**, **Pop Warner**, the hard to find ab **Valencia** and one of my all time exhibition favorites – **Lynette** – a smear of hot pink on white blend.

Let me wrap up this review by mentioning a great purple floribunda – **Deep Purple**. Sprays and singles w/great form. Mel Albert, the Knerrs and I had this one for years while others puzzlingly looked on. The blue ribbons and trophies kept on coming. Source: one place only - Roses

Unlimited.

Food for thought. In my humble opinion a lot of new roses are rated fairly high. Does a rose have to be dead to get an under 7.0 rating? A really good rose struggles to get above an 8.0. But an endless many are in the mid to high 7s.

The 2012 ARF program season has gotten off w/ a big bang Thanks to the great Feb. lecture by Stephen Scanniello. Two more back to back programs will offer more fireworks:

3-11-12 - the Grand Wizard of rose culture, Dave Maxwell, will tell it like it is re: feeding, nutrients, & related subjects. A can't miss meeting.

4-22-12 - LeeAnn Seeley will offer insight on organic gardening & its applications & diversity. LeeAnn is a long time friend & acquaintance of mine. Expect a superb program on a hot topic. Another can't miss!

Lots of Shows this Spring. Support your local Rose Show. Days are getting longer.

## **Note from 2012 Fall District Meeting Chairperson**

*by Diana Klassy*

As you know, the Colonial District's Fall 2012 show and meeting is being jointly hosted by the Arlington Rose Foundation and the Potomac Rose Society on September 21-22, 2012 in Fairfax, VA. This will be a wonderful opportunity for local rose society members to attend a District event close to home. Of course, along with the wonderful opportunity, there are the many responsibilities that go along with hosting an event like this. As the old saying goes "many hands make light the work," so we are looking for many volunteers "to make light the work." Each one of you has varied interests and abilities and there are many different tasks to be done. Below is a list of several areas that need to be covered. This is not a complete list and I am sure as we approach the event other tasks will become evident.

### District Meeting tasks (at Fair Oaks Marriott):

Staff the registration table (Friday p.m. & Saturday a.m.)

Design & create name badges

Acquire donations for "welcome" gift bags from businesses & individuals

Assemble "welcome" gift bags

Design & create centerpieces for banquet tables

Acquire donations for silent auction and raffle table items from business & individuals

Sell raffle tickets during the weekend

Set up silent auction

### Rose show (at Merrifield Garden Center) tasks:

Set up rose show exhibit area: tables, cloths, class markers, etc - Friday a.m.

Set up show prep area, tables & containers - Friday p.m.

Acquire donations for trophies

Organize and lay out trophy table - Friday

Letter award certificates - Saturday

Breakdown and clean-up show prep area - Saturday a.m.

Man the information table during hours open to the public

Serve as clerks for the judges

Breakdown & clean-up rose show exhibit area - Sunday p.m.

After scanning this list, choose an area that you are able to assist with, and contact one of the 2012 Fall District committee members. If you know of, or want to suggest, other areas where volunteers are needed, please include this information when you contact us. The committee team members are Joe Covey, Dave Maxwell, Pam Powers, and Diana Klassy, Chairperson. Thank you in advance for taking an active part in this Colonial District event.

## Local ARF and PRS Consulting Rosarians (as of October 30, 2011)

For free help with your rose questions, you may call on the following Consulting Rosarians. All are volunteers who have been certified and appointed by the American Rose Society to serve as expert advisors on rose culture and rose-growing problems. The individuals listed below are ARF and/or PRS members located in the greater Washington Metropolitan area and they will answer your questions with knowledge of local growing conditions. See [www.ARS.org](http://www.ARS.org) for national listings of Consulting Rosarians.

Name	City	State	Home Phone	E-mail	Local Society
------	------	-------	------------	--------	---------------

### Active

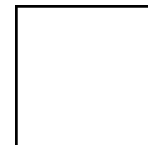
*Michael J. Berger	McLean	VA	703-848-1942	emamike@aol.com	Arlington, Potomac
*Nita Bowen	Oakton	VA	703-620-9768	varoselady@cox.net	Arlington, Potomac
Rick Brown	Locust Grove	VA	540-972-1821	rickbrown51@verizon.net	Arlington
*Joseph M. Covey	Rockville	MD	301-279-0028	coveyj@earthlink.net	Potomac
Col. Robert Dinkins	Annandale	VA	703-978-6387	cdink13@yahoo.com	Arlington
Melanie Dostis	McLean	VA	703-821-0429	pooheads@juno.com	Potomac, Arlington
A. Joseph Dysart	Arlington	VA	703-532-7765	alfredjdysart@cs.com	Arlington, Potomac
Sharlie Eaton	Oakton	VA	703-939-1608	loverofroses@gmail.com	Arlington, Potomac
Steven A. Gavey	Darnestown	MD	240-531-2445	sgavey@gmail.com	Potomac
Clifton B. Jeter	Silver Spring	MD	301-460-8669	cbjeter@verizon.net	Arlington, Potomac
*Diana Klassy	Lexington Park	MD	301-863-5186	diana_n_roses@netzero.com	Arlington
*Capt. Eddy Krauss	Amissville	VA	540-937-2177	rosemeister19@comcast.net	Arlington, Potomac
Dave Maxwell	Fairfax	VA	703-860-0071	davesroses@yahoo.com	Arlington, Potomac
*Joseph J. Mirilovich	Oakton	VA	703-620-5825	jjmirilovich@aol.com	Arlington
Charles Munday, Jr.	Hagerstown	MD	301-739-4669		Arlington
Robert L. Ruby	Hagerstown	MD	301-739-8898		Arlington
John W. Simonton, Jr.	Casanova	VA	703-380-2667	oscar180@aol.com	Arlington
David Walsh	Hampstead	MD	410-374-1010	shiloh@qis.net	Potomac
Nicholas E. Weber	Brookeville	MD	301-774-2806	heritagero@aol.com	Potomac
*Master Consulting Rosarian					

### Emeritus

Bill Blevins	Manassas	VA	703-368-1748		Arlington
Joseph E. Ennis	Washington	DC			Potomac
C. Roger Nelson	Bethesda	MD			Potomac

**The Capital Rose**  
831 Azalea Drive  
Rockville, MD 20850-2018

**First Class**



**Inside this issue...**

Timing Pruning for Shows	1
ARF President's Message	3
ARF Volunteers Needed	3
More ARF March-April Events	4
Rose Garden Checklist	5
Bill's Rose Note Book	8
Members' Rose Journeys - Judy Webster	9
District Meeting & Show - Volunteers	10
ARF & PRS Consulting Rosarians	11

**More Coming Events...**

**Monday, March 12 to Saturday, March 17, 2012.**

**Rosebush Pruning at Brookside Gardens,  
1800 Glenallan Av, Wheaton, MD.**

Head rose gardener Roger Haynes will be pruning over 1,000 rosebushes. Phone him at 301-962-1400 or 301-962-1419 to say when, Mon-Sat, you can come help. He will help you get started and then set you to work!

\*\*\*\*\*

**Friday & Saturday, March 16-17 2012**

**Colonial District Pre-Spring Meeting,  
"Shamrocks and Roses"**

Hosted by Shenandoah Rose Society, Staunton VA. Includes a Judges' Seminar, Consulting Rosarian recertification and Saturday banquet with after dinner speaker. Contact Charles Shaner at 540-294-2875 or [clshaner@mindspring.com](mailto:clshaner@mindspring.com). More info at <http://colonialdistrictroses.org/id4.html>

**And Stay Tuned for...**

**Sunday, May 20, 2012, 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm**

**Joint ARF - PRS Spring Tour of the  
National Garden at the US Botanic Garden**

100 Maryland Av SW, Washington DC 20001.

See over 100 rosebushes, representing a broad mix of classes, and selected to grow well with organic care. Also butterfly and orchid gardens. Website: [www.usbg.gov](http://www.usbg.gov) More details in the next issue of the newsletter.

