

Vol. XLIV, No.1

Patsy Williams, Editor

January 2007

This Month's Meeting

Thursday

January 11, 2007

J & P Roses Kevin Marshall

7:30 pm

Garden Center Hermann Park

Looking Ahead

EarthKind Rose Symposium January 20, 2007

Pruning Demonstrations
February Meeting
February 8, 2007

ARC Pruning Party Shreveport,LA February 17, 2007

Inside

January Practices	2
January Again	3-4
Transporting A Rose	4
Integrated Pest Managements	5-6
New Year's Resolutions	6
Q & A	7
Society Potpourri	8-9
Consulting Rosarians	
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An Inside Look at the Newest Jackson & Perkins Roses

Everyone who has grown more than a couple of roses has spent time pouring over those fantastic rose catalogs published by Jackson & Perkins. In addition to tried and true standards, they always have enticing new roses, just waiting for the planting.

The Houston Rose Society is pleased to bring you **Kevin Marshall**, **direct from Jackson & Perkins**, as our speaker on January 11, 2007. He will tell us all about this year's newest offerings from J & P. This is your chance to see slides of their upcoming roses, and learn about the history of how they were selected, how they do, and why you must be

the first rose grower on your block to have them.

We will also hear about how J & P grows its roses and learn about the fascinating history of this long-time rose supplier. Come, and get the inside information of the roses everyone will be talking about in 2007. The meeting starts at 7:30 p.m. on January 11th. See you there.



'Sheer Magic' J&P's 2007 Rose of the Year

Renew now!

Don't miss the February issue of the *Rose-Ette*. Renew now and continue learning more on how to grow roses. This is your last issue unless you renew. Check your mailing label for renewal date.

What Good Rosarians Are Doing in January

With the Holiday Season behind us, we can now turn our attention toward the 2007 growing season. **Don't** get "itchy fingers", and think that it is time to prune. **WAIT**, until February.

Begin by finishing up projects

Completion of the rose bed is of major importance at this time. It is very important that we prepare the soil first. Newly prepared beds need time to settle, mellow and go through the heating process that normally occurs. The turning of the soil with a spading fork will aid in speeding up the heating process. Note: If you used newspaper to kill the grass, do not poke any holes in it. Grass will come through even the tiniest hole in the paper.

Add organics

You can get a jump-start on spring by adding organics before pruning time. Organics are slow acting and, by adding them in mid-to-late January, are available to the plant by the time it is ready to grow. Consider adding manure (horse, preferred), alfalfa pellets, fish meal, or bone meal. You do not need to go "whole hog", and add everything at one time.

Check pH

The dormant season of the year is the time to check the pH of your soil. Roses grow best when the pH is between 6.5 and 6.9. The pH of the soil can be checked in several ways: pH meters, litmus strips, or soil samples. You need to take more than one sample; all of your beds will not register the same pH. For best results, check pH before fertilizer is added.

If corrections need to be made, it is usually because of a too-low reading. That statement is not true in all parts of the City. If the reading is too low, dolomitic lime is the product of choice when trying to raise pH. Dolomite lime is a slow-acting solution; this allows the plant to respond slowly. If you need to lower pH, sulfur is the product to use. The pH is of importance, since it affects how the plant will grow and bloom for you. A rose has a very narrow range within the pH scale through which nutrients are accessible to the plant.

Pay special attention to your equipment at this time of year. Clean and sharpen your shears, shovels, lawnmower, etc. Remember that sharp cutting edges work better and make cleaner cuts. How about an oil change for your motorized equipment? Be ready when it is time to prune.

Tag for removal - Share your extras

Take a walk in your garden and evaluate the bushes that you have. Did you find bushes which you no longer want in your garden, but which are good enough for someone else to grow? Save these for the February pruning meeting to share with others (bushes are pruned and given away as door prizes). The ones that do not meet this criteria should be "shovel pruned" (dug, and thrown away).

If you are like me, you buy or order more new roses than your space allows. The old ones that you no longer want can be dug and planted into pots; or wrap the roots with plastic, keep moist and bring to the February pruning meeting.

Excess time and energy?

If your pruning shears and saw have been sharpened and are just begging to be used, you can remove the dead and/or non-productive canes. Any cane that is removed from the bud union should be cut smooth, and with no nubs left standing. This will make pruning time go a little quicker, and it usually doesn't encourage premature growth.

Root a few?

If you are thinking about rooting a few roses at pruning time, you might begin to gather the 2-liter cola bottles, pots and the soil in which you are going to root them.

Plan your irrigation system now!

A manual system is good but an automatic watering system is a real time saver.





January? Again?

by Baxter Williams, Master Rosarian

It almost seems that January shows up earlier every year. The roses have wintered nicely, and

they almost wish to start growing every time there is a slight warming for even a couple of days. We know that surely there are actions that need to be taken to produce a fantastic crop of blooms by Easter-time, so it must be time to take stock of those actions and to plan them.

New rose beds have been located in your garden area, and materials have been accumulated with which to construct them. If not already done, it is time to fabricate them. *Don't make the mistake* of making the beds triple-row; access to those bushes in the center row will be almost impossible once the roses have grown to size.

Although space doesn't permit a full discussion of bed dimensions, we need to be practical. Well-grown Hybrid Tea bushes grown in our locale will, at season's end and with full-foliage (read: you prevented blackspot), will be about 6-feet tall and 3 feet in diameter. That means a double-row bed should be 5 to 6 feet wide, and bushes should be planted 2 1/2 to 3 feet apart in the bed. And – if you have paralled beds –the beds should be at least 5-feet apart, so that you won't get lacerated each time you mow the grass between them. Similar thought should be given to spacing between a bed and a fence, or wall, or walkway.

I have always suggested that beds be placed on top of the lawn grass, thereby avoiding an "amended bathtub" effect when the spring rains come down, so you might wish to use that technique as a criterion.

New beds, or reworked ones, can benefit from fresh soil. Soil should be well aged, and composed of material having considerable organic content, which is to be food for soil organisms that will convert the nutrients to forms digestible by your rose plants. If you have shopped with one of our supporting merchants, Nature's Way, the soil they put together to our specifications already contains the right mix of sand, soil, and humus. If your nearby supplier doesn't carry that product, other soil mixes can be adjusted somewhat by adding composts and other materials such as alfalfa pellets or meal (I prefer the pellets because they don't contain as much breathable dust).

In any case, perform a soil analysis on your mix. A soil analysis kit can be obtained by contacting your County Agricultural Agent. Doing that routine before doing anything else allows you to see what needs to be done, as far as adding depleted components. We usually stir in items such as alfalfa, bone meal, dolomite lime (if it is necessary to raise pH), and compost.

New beds should be strategically located, if at all possible, away from the shade of nearby trees. Even more important is distancing from trees to avoid encroachment by roots. The rich beds attract thirsty and hungry tree roots. Those roots are capable of growing over the tops of rose roots, causing the roses to suffer from starvation. It might be worth the time and effort necessary to remove those rose bushes, which haven't been producing well to see if tree roots are stealing water and food from the roses.

Five or six hours of unobstructed sunlight is recommended for your roses. It is more important to gain sunshine for the bushes than to protect them from sight, so have no compunctions about locating the beds near the end of your driveway, if that is where the most sunshine is gained. And that location will give the neighbors some visual enjoyment, perhaps leading them to want to learn about the "Queen of Flowers, the Rose."

If you are about to plant EarthKindTM roses, you will want to plant them into beds made according to recommended procedures.

Drainage in our heavy clay soils should be a consideration, so it might be necessary to add drain piping to a well-tilled area. Ask a Consulting Rosarian for details.

When receiving shipped roses, fill a large container (32-gallon garbage can, or tub) with water, and submerge the rose roots as far as possible. Letting them stay in the bath overnight will give them the opportunity to become rehydrated after a long shipping time.

In readying roses for planting, remove all dead or broken canes. Since January is almost time to prune, go ahead and remove stubs from new bushes, and take off those stems that are smaller than the diameter of a pencil.

Rose bushes should be removed from their pots, (Editor's. Note: only on dormant plants) or sacks, and have their roots examined for damage. Broken or dead roots should be removed, and coiled roots should be gently straightened as much as is practical before planting. If possible, make a small mound of soil in the bottom of the planting hole, and spread the roots over it. Cover them with soil, and water them well before adding a 2-inch layer of mulch.

Keep the newly planted bushes sufficiently watered while they are establishing root systems. They must not dry out while the roots are forming.

Have a rose question or problem? Send it to baxpat@wave3online.com, and we'll give a solution in print that might benefit others in our society.

Transplanting A Rose

by Patsy Williams

The longer we grow roses, the more we recognize when a rose is planted in the wrong place. January and February are ideal times to move a rose bush from one location to another.

Prepare the spot where you want to replant the rose. If another rose has been in that place recently, you will want to remove some of the soil and replace it with new soil. New soil gives new life to the transplanted rose.

Remove any dead, dying or declining canes before digging the bush. If there is one which you cannot remove while it is in the ground, remove it after digging. Canes are easier to remove before the rose is replanted.

Leaves do not have to be removed unless you just want to. They will turn yellow and fall off. However, removing them will keep your rose bed cleaner.

Dig the bush with a spading fork, shake the soil off the roots, and trim the roots to remove any jagged ends and any broken roots. Do not completely prune the bush at this time. You may have to trim a little off the top to make the bush more manageable.

Plant the bush in the prepared spot. Be sure to keep the bud union a little higher than you might like. The soil will settle, and the bush will be a little lower after settling, making the bud union about the right height. Stake the bush to keep it upright until the roots begin to grow and get established. The stake can be removed at pruning time if it is no longer needed.

A newly planted (or transplanted) bush should not be fertilized when planted. Allow the plant to establish a root system before encouraging it to produce blooms.

Water well after planting. Keep canes, as well as the soil, moistened. Canes dry out very fast as the wind blows.

Integrated Pest Management

by A. J. "Pop" Warner

(From A Year in the Rose Garden, The Wit and Wisdom of "Pop" Warner).

One of the buzz words among Horticulturists nowadays is IPM, and we are going to hear it a lot more. Until now it has been fairly simple to control most pests with many chemicals available to us. This has changed and will change a great deal more.

Several factors are at work, the greatest of which is direct pressure from environmentalists. Due to environmentalists' influence, lawmakers are making it more difficult to purchase or to use certain chemicals, and a number of them have been taken from the market. Due to pressure from these environmental groups the EPA exercises its arbitrary powers to deny use of new chemicals being produced, and to remove others. Because of this, chemical companies are reluctant to spend the many millions of dollars required to design, test and obtain approval to introduce new compounds. Only the largest corporations can embark on such a risky venture.

Another important factor is the greater awareness of the hazards of some of the substances we have been using. Some of our older people remember with horror the casual use of arsenate of lead, and calcium arsenate, for example, to control beetles on everything from roses to garden vegetables. Some say we were a hardier race, but it is more likely that thousands died or became ill and no one knew why.

Another factor that is causing us to look for alternatives is the greater realization that many pests can mutate faster than we can find new chemicals to kill them. Spider mites are a prime example. In the battle of man versus bugs, the bugs are winning.

Integrated Pest Management is not a new concept. For generations, good horticulturists have been using a variety of methods to control pests. It is only here of late that a deliberate

effort to use all methods in concert to bring about better results has been formalized.

A typical IPM program might include the following:

- ◆ A study of the life cycle of the target pest to learn when they are vulnerable, thus lessening the frequency and need of pesticide application.
- ◆ Introduction of pest enemies. This presupposes that the enemy is less harmful than the pest. In the north and east where the Japanese beetle is a serious pest, the milky spore disease has been fairly effective, providing all the neighbors also put the spores in their soil. The problem with using insects to control insects is keeping them at home; they are always looking for greener pastures, and fly away.
- ◆ Selective chemical treatment. Avid is supposed to be sparing of mite enemies while killing the mites. There are many herbicides now that are highly selective, and tend to kill only the plants for which they were designed.
- ◆ Restrained use of chemicals. Spray only the part of the plant that harbors the pest.
- ◆ Grow plants in such a way as to minimize infections. Good air circulation in a rose bush seems to reduce incidences of fungus diseases. A healthy vigorously growing plant seems to suffer less insect damage, (perhaps not because the insects attack it less, but because there is more plant left after they have eaten their fill).
- ◆ Hand-pick or wash pests off the plant. Some worms are more effectively managed by hand-picking than by spraying the plant. Aphids are easily washed off some plants. Powdery mildew of roses can be reduced by washing the bushes early in the morning. Spider mites can be reduced, sometimes to an acceptable level, by a strong spray of water. A combination of

these methods with appropriate chemical sprays can be quite effective.

- ◆ Development of pest-resistant plants. This has been going on for a long time, and rust-resistant wheat is a good example. Efforts to develop roses that do not get blackspot or mildew continue. Some of our modern roses are quite resistant to these diseases.
- ◆ Select pest resistant plants. In our area certain pear varieties are highly subject to fire blight, so we simply plant varieties that are less vulnerable. Only a few of the Old Garden Roses

are as resistant to disease as their proponents claim.

◆ Decide what level of pest damage we can accept. For example, unless we are going to exhibit roses we may be willing to accept a little mildew on the foliage, a few blossoms discolored by thrips, or a few blackspotted leaves at the end of the season.

So, when you see the term IPM, don't think it is a new governmental agency, but rather initials for something good growers have been doing. They are just doing it with greater planning and with greater effectiveness.

New Year's Resolutions

(Adapted From A Year in the Rose Garden by A. J. "Pop" Warner)

- 1. I will continue to give space to some very fragrant roses just to make beautiful bouquets smell beautiful.
- 2. I will keep my beds clean and reasonably well-groomed so passers-by will enjoy the roses more.
- I will go out of my way to encourage new growers. And I will tell them about the advantages of belonging to the Houston Rose Society and the American Rose Society.
- 4. I will spray religiously once a week for blackspot and mildew.
- 5. I will try to check the spider mites before they start defoliating the roses.
- 6. I will use insecticides sparingly, only where and when needed.
- 7. I will remember that water is more important than fertilizer.
- 8. I will try to avoid letting any weeds go to seed and regenerate themselves.

- 9. I will take fewer and better roses to the spring show. (Well, I will at least try.)
- 10. I will take better care of my equipment so I will have more time for enjoying the roses instead of making repairs.
- 11.I will look for the beauty of the roses instead of dwelling on their faults. I will try to do the same with the people who grow them.
- 12.I will remind myself regularly that the people who grow roses are more important than their roses.
- 13. I will call on my pleasant memories as often as I choose. They do not wear out.
- 14.1 will go out of my way to create some more pleasant memories for future years.
- 15. I will stop putting things off; if not this year, maybe next.

Q. How far apart do you plant roses?

A. A minimum of 30 inches between centers for hybrid teas, grandiflorias, and larger floribundas. Large bushes planted on 30 inch centers are less likely to have interference from neighboring bushes. Floribundas are

planted according to their size; some can be planted as close as 24 inches. Miniatures are generally planted on 20 inch centers, determined by bush size. Some will grow as large as smaller floribundas.

Q. How wide should a rose bed be?

A. A five foot wide bed (inside diameter) will allow you to plant two rows of roses, 30 inches apart. For a single row of roses, you need three feet.

Q. What is compost?

A. Compost is, in broadest terms, the biological reduction of organic wastes to humus; a mixture of various decaying organic substances, such as leaves, manure, grass clippings, etc., for fertilizing land.

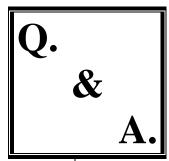
Q. What is humus?

A. Humus is the decomposed remains of organic matter. Humus is a soft, sweet smelling, shapeless, dark brown-to-black crumbly substance that is the heart of healthy soil. The toxicity of plant poisons becomes less severe in soils high in humus.

Q. Why are raised beds recommended? Can they be built directly on top of existing soil?

A. Raised beds are recommended because of drainage. Roses do not like wet "feet" (roots). A hole dug in clay can form a bathtub which holds water due to over-watering or too much rain. A raised bed allows for much needed watering, a loose soil in which the roots can grow, and good drainage. Yes, beds can be built directly on top of existing soil, by covering the grass with several thicknesses (8 to 10 sheets) of overlapping newspaper, and adding soil mix on top of the paper without tearing it.

Q. Why do we mulch? Does mulch applied on the beds need extra nitrogen?



A. Mulch aids in the prevention of weeds and also retains moisture in the soil. Mulch applied to tops of the beds should require no extra nitrogen. Mulch stirred into the bed will require added nitrogen. Mulch decomposes on top of the soil and can be stirred in as humus.

Q. Why do we have to spray so much for fungi? **A**. We live on the Gulf Coast where there is high humidity and heat, causing fungal spores to multiply rapidly. To keep them from multiplying, a preventive spray must be applied.

Q. Why can't I spray a mixed spray (fungicide and insecticide) all the time?

A. You do not want to **kill what isn't there.** Spray for insects only when you detect a problem. Do not kill the beneficial insects.

Q. Should the soil be replaced in the area where a rose bush was removed?

A. There is no one answer to this question. (1) A plant gives off toxins into the soil. A new plant has to overcome these toxins to establish itself; the word for this is alleopathy. Old soil needs to be removed and replaced. The older soil can always be added to the compost pile for future use. (2) The soil may just be worn out and needing some compost and additives added to it. (3) You can also remove the bush, leave the soil exposed to the elements for a month or so, and the soil will then be okay to use.

Q. Is it better to buy bareroot roses or those in a pot?

A. The price is just about the same. When you buy a rose in a pot you get to pick the one that you like. You have no choice when buying bareroot through the mail. Always buy from a reputable nursery.



Society Potpourri AND THE WINNERS ARE.....

Our holiday party was a great success with many beautiful tablescapes, excellent food and a wonderful time to visit with old friends and our many new members who joined our ranks this year. It was also the venue for our annual Awards Presentation.

ARS Bronze Service Award

Maria Trevino was awarded the ARS Bronze Honor Medal for Outstanding Service for her tireless service to the society. Not only is Maria a Consulting Rosarian, she has also served as our program chair for the past 2 years, has served on the Board of Directors, helped with our rose shows, volunteered at local nurseries as part of our Nursery Assistance Program, facilitated the creation of the new HRS T-Shirts and jumped in to help any time that she has been called upon.

HRS Volunteer of the Year Certificate

Mary Bahn received the Volunteer of the Year Award for the many projects that she has participated in for the benefit of our members in 2006. Not only has Mary served as our Hospitality Chair, she facilitated our ability to have a membership booth at the Houston Flower & Plant Show in February and helped with the membership booth, assisted with our rose shows and assisted as a tour hostess at the spring garden tour. She also has generated sponsorships for our upcoming EarthKind Rose Symposium.

Certificates of Appreciation

Jon Axford, Lettie Tyler, Susan Kelly, Delbert Pond, and Nora Wolff received Certificates of Appreciation recognizing their volunteer service in publishing the monthly newsletter and assisting with the many projects the Society sponsored this past year. Ella Tyler received a special Certificate of Appreciation for her service as editor of the newsletter for the past 2 years. Many thanks to all for a great job! Certificates of appreciation were also given to RCW Nursery, Teas' Nursery, Robertson's

Nursery, and to Southwest Fertilizer for their more than 10 years' support to the Houston Rose Society.

Grand Prix Winners for 2006:

The competition for 2006 is completed, winners were announced at out Holiday Party and awards were given to:

1st place James and Debbie Laperouse

Robin Hough

2nd place 3rd place Deanna and Earl Krause Congratulation to these very deserving recipients. You have to bring roses to score points needed to be a winner. Maybe you could be next year's winner.

2007 HRS Officers

President	Gaye Hammond	281-458-6116
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VP Programs	Deanna Krause	281-487-3347
VP Member.	John Jons	281-486-7659
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Treasurer	Galt Morgan	713-463-6719
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Past Pres.	Donald Burger	713-861-5412
Parl.	James Laperouse	281-469-4056
Director	Robin Hough	281-482-8944
Director	Baxter Williams	713-944-3437

HRS Events Calendar

Mark your calendar - updates made monthly

Jan 11 •HRS meeting Kevin Marshall J&P Jan 20 ■EarthKind Rose Symposium -

South Main Baptist Church, Pasadena

Feb 8 HRS meeting - Pruning demonstrations

Feb 9-17 ■SWF's Rose Appreciation Week

Feb 17 Pruning Party at ARS

EarthKind Rose Symposium

Don't miss this event. Registration forms were in the December Rose-Ette. Register early. Mark January 20, 2007 on your calendar. This will be a great day of education on easy care roses. Contact Gave Hammond, 713-292-2760 or gayeh@lpm-triallaw.com or visit the Houston Rose Society website, www.houstonrose.org (click on EarthKind Symposium).

2007 Rose Society Appreciation Week Southwest Fertilizer Mark your calendars now! Dates: Friday February 9 Through

Saturday February 17

Your Input Is Needed

As the New Year begins, it is the goal of the HRS BOD to give its members the kind of information that helps to make rose growing easier. Let us hear from you as to the types of programs and the types of articles that would most meet your needs. The Houston Rose Society is for everyone. We are always looking for ideas, suggestions and volunteers. Contact Patsy Williams at 713-944-3437 or Gaye Hammond at 713-292-2760 with whatever suggestions that you might have.

You are the "Rose Society". Your input is very important to us.

Check us out – <u>www.houstonrose.org</u>
HRS has an excellent website. There is a lot of information to be gained there.

ANNUAL SOCIETY DUES ARE DUE!

Renewal notices were mailed the 7th of Nov. Check the top right hand corner of your address label on this newsletter. If you find a "**Dec 06**" this will be your last issue of the **Rose-Ette** unless you renew now! Note: Labels for this mailing were run early due to an early mailing due to the editor's commitments. If you paid after Dec. 11, disregard this message.

HRS membership runs January through December, regardless of when you joined. To receive a membership card by mail, send a **self-addressed <u>STAMPED</u> envelope.** Dues are \$15.00 per calendar year. To receive the February newsletter, renewal must be received by January 21st when the labels will be run.

Join the American Rose Society

Membership in the American Rose Society is a good way to satisfy your rose hunger. As a member you will receive:

- 11 issues of the American Rose magazine
- A Rose Annual in December
- A Handbook for Selecting Roses
- Free entry into the American Rose Center in Shreveport with your membership card.
- Access to the ARS lending library and more.
 Mail \$37 along with name & address to: ARS, PO Box 30,000, Shreveport, LA 71130-0030

Special Interest Bulletins

ARS offers four special quarterly publications designed for members who want detailed information on rose arranging, rose exhibiting, miniature roses, and old garden roses. These journals are packed with special tips, information, show results and much, much more. Subscription prices:

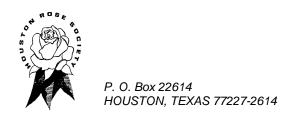
1.	Rose Exhibitors Forum	\$15			
2.	Marvelous Miniatures	\$10			
3.	OGR & Shrub Gazette	\$10			
4.	Rose Arrangers' Bulletin	\$10			
То	order, call or write: ARS,	PO Box 30,000,			
Shreveport, LA 71130-0030, or call					
1-8	300-637-6534				

Come to the Party

There were Christmas and New Year's parties, but there will be another fun party on Saturday, February 17, 2007. This will be the Annual Pruning Party at the American Rose Center in Shreveport, Louisiana. Many of you haven't seen the ARC before and our own HRS gardens there, and this will be a great opportunity to visit our nation headquarters and its gardens *for free!*

After an hour of pruning instruction (by our own Baxter Williams), we will prune roses in the nation's largest garden devoted to roses.

Join with volunteers from other supportive rose societies, and we will be able to give the ARC maintenance crew much-needed assistance; there is no way the crew can prune that many plants by themselves.



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

♥ ♥ Editor - THE ROSE-ETTE ♥ ♥

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

MEMBERSHIP is \$15.00 per calendar year,

January thru December. Mail membership dues to:

Baxter Williams 2502 Leprechaun Lane Houston, TX 77017-7320 Phone 713-944-3437 baxpat@wave3online.com

NOTE:

<u>Send address changes to this address.</u> HRS mails bulk-rate and **it is NOT forwarded.**

Call a Consulting Rosarian

These Rosarians welcome your rose questions.

Donald Burger / Maria Trevino	Heights	713-861-5412
Denise Cope	SW	713-771-4841
David Eoff	Con	936-760-4081
* Mary Fulgham / Randy Keen	Bel	713-668-4054
William Groth	W	281-531-8388
Anne Guignon	W	713-974-4540
Gaye Hammond	NE	281-458-6116
* Robin Hough	SE	281-482-8944
John Jons	SE	281-486-7659
Robin Kohler	W	713-935-0329
* Earl / * Deanna Krause	SE	281-487-3347
Jeniver Lauran	S	713-433-2524
Doug Mitchell	S	281-992-9167
John Patterson	Bry/CS	979-852-9630
Gale Pierce	NW	281-890-7341
Mary Walker	Bel	713-665-5073
* Baxter / * Patsy Williams	S	713-944-3437

^{*} Master Rosarians

Randall's Remarkable Card for HRS, # 5928