

# KATrips

Newsletter of the Tenarky District  
of the American Rose Society  
<http://www.tenarky.org>

SPRING 2007

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## Upcoming Events

Tenarky District  
Fall Convention and  
Rose Show

September 28-30,  
2007

Chattanooga, TN

## Monty's Triple Crown

The Kentucky Derby has already been run, as have the Preakness and Belmont. If a horse can win all three of these prestigious races, it has earned the Triple Crown, horse racing's most honored designation. Among those great horses that have earned the Triple Crown are Secretariat, Seattle Slew, Affirmed, and Whirlaway. It is an extraordinarily difficult task to achieve, and no horse has earned a Triple Crown in nearly 30 years.

In our own Tenarky district, we have traditionally had three major awards that an individual can earn for ser-

vice to the Tenarky district—the Silver Honor Medal, the Outstanding Horticulture Judge Award, and the Outstanding Consulting Ro-



Consulting Rosarian Chair Bob Jacobs presents Monty Justice with the Outstanding Consulting Rosarian Award for 2006.

sarian Honor.

At the Tenarky Winter workshop this year, Monty Justice was presented 2006's Outstanding Consulting Ro-

sarian award, completing his "Triple Crown" of Awards, joining elite company including Jimmy Moser, Noah Wilson, and Roy and Helen Almond. Monty previously earned the Silver Honor Medal in 1991 and the Outstanding Judge in 2002. On hand to witness the presentation were Monty's wife, Becky, his two daughters, and grandchildren.

Last year, we began honoring a fourth major area of contribution to the district, the Outstanding Arrangements Judge. This year's honor was presented to Peggy Bingham of Memphis.

The Outstanding Horticulture Judge for 2006 was awarded to Robert Sutherland of Lexington, Kentucky.

Tenarky Triple Crowns			
Recipient	Outstanding Consulting Rosarian	Outstanding Judge	Silver Honor Medal
<b>Roy and Helen Almond</b>	1986	1996	1997
<b>Noah Wilson</b>	2004	2001	2005
<b>Jimmy Moser</b>	1996	2005	2001
<b>Monty Justice</b>	2006	2002	1991

## Seal Our Borders...Now!

We have a serious immigration problem in this country, and our elected leaders aren't doing anything about it. Every day, millions, perhaps billions of undesirables cross our borders, seeking deliverance from their life of oppression and want. They yearn to live in the land of the free.

Quite frankly, I'm tired of these foreigners mooching off our land, our resources, and especially our roses. I don't care about the Mexicans crossing the southern border, or the Canadians on the north. I don't care about Cubans entering Florida, or any other international citizen trying to make a better life for himself.

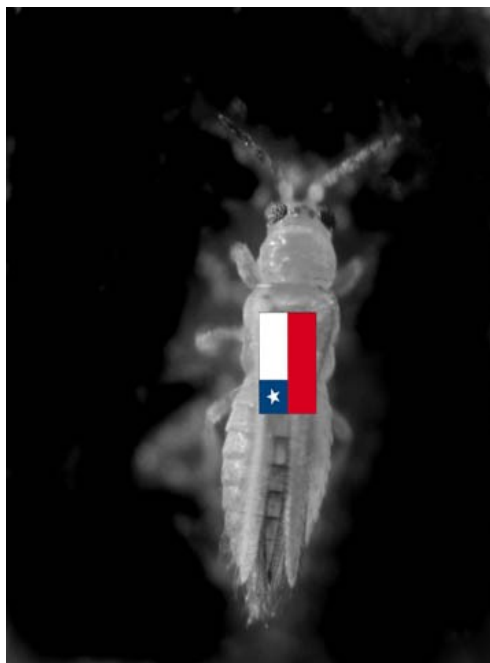
What I really resent are these foreign insects! While congress is worried about building a fence along the Mexican border and worrying about whether or not to offer amnesty and legal status to currently illegal aliens, our landscapes are literally being eaten by perhaps the single most serious problem facing this nation today—illegal insect immigration.

The latest predator that has started showing its ugly head (and six ugly legs) is the Chilean thrips. Thrips are horrible, but Chilean thrips are worse. Thrips pierce and suck the moisture out of your light-colored roses and leave unsightly brown edges. Chilean thrips do that plus damage your foliage. And if left untreated, they can grow large enough to eat your small pets. Hamsters, gerbils, and even Chihuahuas have been reported missing as far north as Savannah!

The following information was taken from a University of Florida Extension publication:

*"Chile thrips attack all above ground parts of its*

*host plants, and prefer the young leaves, buds and fruits. It has been reported to attack a wide range of plants with more than 100 recorded hosts from 40 different families including beans, melons, peppers, strawberries, and tomato as well as a wide range of ornamentals and fruits including citrus. Heavy feeding damage turns tender leaves, buds, and fruits bronze to black in color. Damaged leaves curl upward and appear distorted. Infested plants become stunted or dwarfed,*



**The Chilean thrips is distinguished by its markings of the flag of Chile on its back. The government of Chile cleverly designed its flag to resemble the flag of Texas (21 years before the Texas flag was designed no less). This clever ruse may have allowed this nuisance pest to enter the U.S.**

*and leaves with petioles detach from the stem. The abundance of Chile thrips is low in the rainy season, but becomes high during the dry season."*

Chilean thrips are 0.5 to 1.2 mm long, light brown in appearance, and have the clear markings of the Chilean flag on their backs. You may notice the remarkable similarities of the flags of Chile and Texas, which may explain in part how they got

across the border.

It wasn't enough that we have Japanese beetles to munch our blooms and leaves through June and July (even into August), but to have these other foreign nationals come and take up residence in our rose gardens is beyond excuse. Where was the border patrol? The Coast Guard? The Orkin Man?

It is time for our leaders to step up and protect our borders, our citizens, and our roses. We need comprehensive immigration reform. Contact your Senator and Representative and demand that they support legislation that will:

- 1) Not establish amnesty for any illegal insect residing within the borders of the United States.
- 2) Not establish an alien worker class for illegal immigrant insects residing within our borders.
- 3) Not allow a path to citizenship for these nondesirables.
- 4) Secure our entire border, on north, south, east, and west, with impenetrable spun bond polyester fabric and millions of bug zappers.

The timing is crucial on this matter. With much of the country in drought, the Chilean thrips may become established in more northerly regions and eventually reach the Tenarky district. Don't wait another minute. Stop illegal insect immigration today.

*Editor's Note: It seems that our investigative reporter has this time located a legitimate publication. You can read about the Chilean thrips at*

[http://www.pbcgov.com/coopext/vegetable/newsletters/pdhotline\\_120605.pdf](http://www.pbcgov.com/coopext/vegetable/newsletters/pdhotline_120605.pdf)

By Dr. Kent Campbell, District Director [clairelc@aol.com](mailto:clairelc@aol.com)

## Director's Column: There Will Always Be a \_\_\_\_\_!

Some readers of this short essay may be old enough to remember seeing Meredith Wilson's, The Music Man, either on the stage or as a movie. It is a wonderful musical and also a great story. The plot concerns a high powered salesman who travels small towns in the 1930s selling band uniforms, instruments, music books, and the promise of lessons, but usually flees the area before having actually provided the last steps of organizing and teaching the band.

In Mr. Wilson's story, however, the slick salesman, played by Robert Preston in the movie, is slow leaving one particular town because he had "fallen" for a local lady, Marion, the librarian whose young brother was excited about being in the newly forming "boys' band." The young boy, played beautifully in the movie by Ron Howard, even before he played Opie and long before he played Richie Cunningham on television, accidentally overhears Preston's plans to skip town and confronts him. He says something to the effect of "you ain't gonna do it! There ain't gonna be no band," and cries pitifully! Preston's answer, in my opinion, and given my profession, is one of the greatest lines in all theater. He calmly says, "Don't worry, son, **there will always be a band!**" And, of course, as in most musical theater, things work out in the end for the good of all.

This, to me, familiar narrative came to mind as I was contemplating what to say to you .... what to report, as it were, about the current condition of the American Rose Society. No doubt you have been hearing and reading mixed news about many things to do with our parent organization. It is a very active time, indeed. If I may, I will borrow and paraphrase the famous opening sentences from Charles Dickens's masterpiece, A Tale of Two Cities, to describe our situation. "It was the worst of times. It was the best of times." Without delving into speculation about

possible causes, here is the bad news.

Membership continues to decline. Current trends indicate that we will reach 12,000 national members within a year or two. That's from a high of over 20,000 less than ten years ago. The fall in membership creates a severe problem in the ARS operational budget, which is based largely upon dues.

One of the most expensive items in the ARS overall operation is the magazine. With declining membership, read "circulation," advertising income is suddenly slacking off at an alarming rate. Thus a greater percentage of our dues money must be allocated to produce the magazine.



**Members of the Nashville Rose Society at our Winter Workshop. Nashville has a strong society that is a credit to our district and a fine example for others to emulate.**

Almost like "the final straw," we have been told that our executive director, Michael Craft, has resigned and will be leaving shortly. I hasten to add that he departs with no ill feeling from any area. He has the opportunity to delve full-time into an advisory operation he has been developing on a part-time basis and which means significant financial reward for him. He will be sorely missed because he has helped us through some lean times while creating an aura of good business organization and practices during his too short tenure with us. The fact that he is the third individual to leave the office within about four years, could create a nega-

tive national image. He will be hard to replace.

In case that's not enough, we can talk about Tenarky's frozen roses, canceled shows, and loss of another society. But maybe that is overkill, and I'm ready to think good news and good times, such as that which follows.

The Board of Directors of A.R.S. seem to be united in the purpose of doing whatever needs to be done to bring the American Rose Society back to the position of the nation's leading horticultural organization. What's more, the membership, by and large, appears ready to accept the measures needed to achieve this. At least in Tenarky, I've heard no gripes about the impending raise in dues: it has been six years. The same wait-and-see attitude prevails about the likelihood that the magazine will be changed from monthly to bi-monthly.

Don't forget about the jewels in our crown. The Shreveport properties, especially the gardens, are the joy of the rose world, and the fabulous new Klima building will be a great attraction. These are and will be positive supports to the financial processes.

As with any large family, there will be occasional gripes and internal squabbles but the incessant good news is that for over one hundred years this family of rose lovers has held steadfast in their togetherness. If we can find good leadership at all levels; if we pay our bills without wasting money; and if we participate in rose activities keeping our societies healthy, all will be well. Finally, we need to walk out to our own gardens at every possibility and quietly thank God for the beauty and majesty of this creation which He has entrusted to our care. If each of us decides to do what we can to make a difference, we will then be able to say, "Don't worry, friend, **there will always be a rose society.**"

# Recovering from the Great Freeze of 2007

Years from now when “old timer” rosarians get together in groups of various numbers, one topic of discussion is guaranteed. “Yes, I remember the great freeze of Easter week back in 2007! Apples,



**1 Shortly after the freeze, we just “topped off” the visible damage.**

peaches, and early strawberries were wiped out over most of the mid-south. Budding trees turned brown and seemed to go back into dormancy. Every spring rose show in the Tenarky District was canceled because many rose bushes were apparently killed, or damaged so severely, that over-anxious rosarians hastened to replace them without waiting long enough to see what the final results might be.”

This account of the troubles we rosarians have been facing the past

had been especially beautiful. Forsythia, daffodils, red buds, and tulips had come and gone and dogwoods were in full bloom when most of us had completed our spring “start-up” feeding application and fine pruning of our bushes. Everything was looking great. Then disaster struck! Of course, we had plenty of warning but my bushes were too big to cover, except a few that had just been planted.

One problem we all faced was the “teasing” effect of the damage. It took several days, perhaps even a week or more, for the full extent of the damage to become visible! At first, it didn’t seem so bad. Advice of what to do was easy to find, but often contradictory and usually preceded with a statement

vious that we had to re prune, that is cut back to below all dead or dying canes, often to soil level or even below to the graft or bud union. The bad news is that, yes, there were some bushes lost; I think in my case about twenty of my 150 total. (My first fears were for a much heavier kill.)

However, I have some exciting pictures to share that were taken yesterday. They show the results of patience, a few days of sunshine, and a



**3 A week later, patience is rewarded with new growth.**



**2 Then it became obvious that cuts had to be made “all the way” down to the white pith again.**



few weeks is being penned on May 7, just about one month after the several days of temperatures in the low twenties devastated all growing things. March

that, “I’ve never encountered anything like this in my life, but I would ....”

As time went by, it did become ob-

good warm rain over the weekend. Obviously, there is a long way to go yet. Blooms will be coming quite late, but we have fall shows to anticipate, and they will be spectacular as far as I am concerned.

I do have replacements in pots right now for about twelve minis and eight big roses, but I think I’ll wait a while longer to see if any of the “dead” ones come back to life. After all, I have learned that patience is not only a virtue, it’s really quite smart!!

So are roses tender, finicky plants? Based on their recovery from this late, deep freeze, I would say definitely not. Ω

## Rose Bush Won't Bud Out? Sweat It Out!

Do you ever order bare root roses and get something that doesn't look like it's been well cared for in cold storage?

If not properly cared for in storage or shipping, your bare root rose bush can become dehydrated before it gets to you and you have a chance to plant it.

This year, I received an order of ten bushes from...well, I won't say from whom, but let's just say it wasn't from one of the vendors in our district! Anyway, I got a box marked "roses" from the mail man one day when I got home from work. Opening boxes marked "roses" are about as much fun for me as opening gifts on Christmas morning.



**Before:** A severely dehydrated bare root doesn't look like it has much of a chance..

I opened the box, pulled off the plastic wrap and noticed there was no water running off the plants, no moisture in the box, and the moss packed around the roots was as dry as a worm on the sidewalk on a sunny July afternoon. I hadn't been so disappointed since I got that gift card for a free pedicure two Christmases ago. I traded my wife for her Best Buy gift card, though, so it all worked out in the end. But I digress.

Seeing the shriveled up twigs that

this supplier had sent me, I was ready to call them and demand a refund or replacements. But then I remembered something that I heard Monty Justice talk about a few years back. He said, "If you ever have a rose that doesn't want to bud out, before you throw it out, try to sweat it out!"

The procedure goes like this:

Take your dessicated bare root rose and put it in a fairly large pot (3-5 gallons, large enough to support any roots it has). Fill it with a good potting mix and plant it at the height you would as if it were in the ground. Water well.

Next, get a large, dark plastic trash bag. A 32-gallon bag would be the

when you open the bag. Over the next one to six weeks, the rose should start to bud out.

Now, you have to be careful, because your rose has been in a very humid environment for a period of time and needs to be acclimated to ambient conditions.

Put the budded rose in full shade for a couple of days, making sure you keep the potting mix moist.

Gradually, over the next week or two, introduce it to more light. From the shade, move the pot to dappled sunlight, then full sunlight for a few hours per day, gradually increasing to full sun.

When the plant looks like it's on its



**After.** Six weeks covered by a black plastic trash bag in full sun has "sweat out" the bare root. It looks like it's going to make it.

minimum size, but the "lawn and leaf" sized bags work even better.

Take the bag and cover the plant, pot and all. I place the bag over the bare root so that the bottom of the bag is on the top of the plant and the free ends of the bag can be secured underneath the pot. Place the whole thing in full sun and leave it.

Every four to seven days, take a peek underneath the trash bag and see what's going on with the rose bush. You should have steam coming out

way to healthy growth, plant it in the ground as you would a potted plant from the garden center.

For plants in the ground that are slow to break dormancy, you may try a cloche or frame around the plant covered by the plastic bag as described earlier. Not all plants can be saved, but it may surprise you how resilient the roses can be—a plant that seems like it has no hope may very well become a healthy bush with a little sweat. Ω

Contributed by Jolene Adams

## Moving? Let the ARS Know!

Are you changing addresses? House or email addresses? If so, let the American Rose Society know. Fill out the form at this web address so that you can receive your mailings with as little interruption as possible:

<http://www.ars.org/Forms/changeaddressform.html>

Contributed by Claire Campbell

## Master Rosarians

Join us in congratulating and honoring our 2006 Master Rosarians. Master Rosarians are recognized from Consulting Rosarians who have served no fewer than 10 years and have been recognized for high levels of contribution:

Peggy Bingham      Kent Campbell

Sarah Johnson      Anne Owen

Martin Skinner      Joseph Spruiell

Rhonda Spruiell

By Claire Campbell      [clairelc@aol.com](mailto:clairelc@aol.com)

## Tenarky Garden Tour

Wouldn't it be great if we could arrange a garden tour of all the wonderful rose gardens of our members throughout the Tenarky District? Since that is not possible, we thought that a PowerPoint program covering this subject would be an acceptable substitute, and especially welcome during the cold days of winter.

With your cooperation, we will prepare such a program to be presented at the 2008 Tenarky Winter Workshop. We need your garden pictures – not pictures of individual roses or bushes – but pictures of your garden. What do people see when they first view your garden or a section of your garden? Of course, you may have several sections as do Jimmy and Evelyn Moser (see below) or Jeff and Cindy Garrett. So, send up to three pictures, please.

They do not have to be this year's pictures. In fact, after the Freeze of 2007, we don't want to rely on this year's roses. So, go through your pictures and pick out your favorites and send them to me. If you send photos, they will be scanned and returned. Or send them by email or send a disc.

Include your name and address and a description of what we are seeing. This will be the "script" that will go along with the pictures.

This would be a good time to do this – before your roses require all your time! This will be your program and can not be produced without your help! I would like to have the pictures by October 1<sup>st</sup>. Thank you so much!

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Photos by Linda Jansing

## Slide and Digital Photo Contest Winners

Congratulations to Linda Jansing of the Louisville Rose Society who won four awards in the most recent Slide and Digital Photo Contest.

She took first place in two categories, another third place, and one honorable mention. You will find a complete list of winners, select photos, and hints for entering the 2007 contest in the May *American Rose*.



Third Place. Class 12-5.  
One Bloom Mini or  
Miniflora (Novice)  
'Conundrum'



(Above) First Place. Class 12-11.  
Cover Shot (Novice)  
'Hot Princess'



First Place. Class 12-2. One Spray of a Floribunda,  
Grandiflora, Polyantha, or Hybrid Tea (Novice).

'Lyda Rose'



(Left) Honorable Mention. Class 12-4.  
Old Garden Rose, Shrub, or Climber  
(Novice)

'Perdita'

## Award of Merit Winners

Congratulations to these Award of Merit recipients for articles or booklets published in 2006:

Introduction to Roses-101 by Martin Skinner, Holston Rose Society

Unswayed by Feng Shui by Leann Barron, Nashville *Rose Leaf*

Don't Compromise on Your Soil! by Sam Jones, Nashville *Rose Leaf*

Much About Mulch by Ted Mills, published in the Bradenton-Sarasota *Bulletin*.

Showing and Judging Minifloras by Robert Sutherland, published in the *Carolina District Newsletter*

Slowly I Turn, Step by Step by Glenda Whitaker, published in the Nashville *Rose Leaf*.

## Website Contest

Claire Campbell, webmaster for the district, earned Princess with the third best district website in the American Rose Society's annual website contest. Congratulations (and many thanks!) to Claire.



## Newsletter Competition

Congratulations to the Nashville Rose Society for their Gold award as the best local newsletter in Group A (eight or fewer pages). The *Nashville Rose Leaf* is edited by Sam Jones, Glenda Whitaker, and Charles Lott.

You can visit the NRS website at:  
<http://www.nashvillerosesociety.com>

# Don't Compromise on Your Soil!



**Don't compromise on your soil!** In fact, between the two, more money should be invested in your soil than in your rose plant. In the first growing season, a frail, first-year plant put into organically rich sandy loam will likely out-produce a vigorous two-year-old, nursery-grown rose set out in poor, compacted, or deficient growing conditions.

## What is good soil?

Surprisingly, it starts with air and water! Without water, nothing grows. But without air, nothing breathes. Your roses are living and breathing organisms.

Like you, they are made of oxygen, hydrogen, and carbon. Almost all of the woody substances of plants, including roses, are derived from these three elements, and they come right out of air and water. If you want to enjoy roses, you must offer their roots and leaves (or their "mouths and lungs") an environment where they can get abundant supplies of both.

## Now, what else is good soil?

Only what it takes for roses to absorb and manufacture foods from air and water! The "solids" of good soil are both the containers (holders) and the mechanisms (agents) for roses to extract what they need from the air and the water with the energy of sunlight, producing their beautiful, fragrant, long-stemmed flowers we love to enjoy.

## What are those soil solids?

Basically they are inorganic (rocks) and organic material (by-products of living or dead organisms). Rocks (originally from hardening of earth's molten crust), through erosive effects of air, water, heat, and cold, gradually (over millennia) break down into smaller, usable forms of their internal components (iron, magnesium, silicon, etc.), first into a form we call "sand." Over more time, sand breaks down into "silt," and over still more substantial amounts of

time, silt particles become even smaller, compressing (or clumping) into "clay." All these forms of rock erosion—sand, silt, and clay—are quite useful to living organisms, plants, animals, and yes, roses.

Good soil is soil that unlocks the rich chemical potential from clay and, unleashing the "power" of hydrogen (pH—remember the "H-bomb") through compound substances we call acids and alkalines (with positive, negative interactions), makes these agents available to living organisms. In other words, good soil is soil that captures air and water and provides the conditions for supporting life.

## How can you have good soil?

Remember, you must have air and water in your soil, and you must have the chemicals (agents) for living organisms (roses) to manufacture sugars and starches from air and water.

So the first rule, water and air must be able to flow into and out of your soil. If there were only air in your soil (too much sand and silt), your plants would wilt. If there were too much water in your soil (too much clay), your plants' roots would not breathe and would suffocate and die. So, make sure your soil is porous, but not too porous. Such balanced amounts of sand, silt, and clay we call "loam." However, roses prefer a slightly acidic (pH 6.0-6.5), generous mixture of sand with less clay and silt, which we call "sandy loam,"—creating ideal conditions where they thrive.

Now the second rule is that the chemical compounds in loam must be available to your roses. Living organisms and their by-products, interacting with acidic and alkaline hydrogen ions and molecules help make chemical elements usable by your roses. In other words, your soil must be life-supporting for your roses to flourish, and the more living organisms your soil supports, the better.

## What elements make your soil life supporting?

Not only rich elements available from clay, but also from essential organic materials. Life supports life. Dead and decomposing organic matter results in "humus," producing "humic acid," which increases soil's ability to hold water and nutrients, encouraging more living organisms.

One teaspoon of organically enriched loam contains hundreds of millions of bacteria, hundreds of thousands of fungi and algae, and hundreds of nematodes. In an acre of fertile soil live countless mites, millipedes, centipedes, pill-bugs, insects, earthworms, and a few mammals. These all help till the soil, creating air spaces and breaking down the organic residue and inorganic components into nutrients the plants can use (mineralization), while also improving the soil structure (making it "friable").

For life-supporting soil, of all possible amendments, organic materials are critical—for all plants, and especially for roses. Life-fostering soils occur slowly. Think in terms not of weeks or months, but of seasons and years. Above all, apply nothing that would destroy the living, working organisms so vital to good soil and plants.

## What about soils in middle Tennessee?

Native Tennessee soils generally tend toward the acidic, clay-side of the scale. More frequent eastern rains leach out alkaline materials that are prominent in the arid areas of the west—except in those Tennessee plateaus where limestone outcroppings permeate the surface topsoil (in these "cedar glades" agricultural sulfur can help counteract an *alkaline overbalance*). In addition, while heavy chemical fertilizers may speed the natural process of microbial organisms, they also leave toxic residues of salts and increase acidic



## Don't Compromise on Your Soil! (Continued)

conditions. Yearly applications of lime, along with gypsum, can "sweeten" acidic soils, or raise the pH level (making it more alkaline), and help leach out these salts. However, regular testing of acidity levels (with inexpensive kits) and soil samples (by agriculture labs) is essential before making any substantial attempts to change the structure of your soil, whether by lime or sulfur. A general rule for producing good

sandy loam in middle Tennessee that is alive with working organisms is the rule of "thirds"—1/3 sand, 1/3 native soil (containing clay), and 1/3 organic material (peat moss, well-composted manure or lawn clippings, etc.). With annual additions of 4"-6" of good mulch, such a soil composition should be stable, longlasting, gradually improving in structure and fertility, and requiring less harsh chemicals that build-up harmful ac-

ids and salts. This soil should hold water well, yet drain sufficiently to bring life-giving air into the roots, allowing them to pull nutrients into the plant, and with sunlight, creating healthy abundance of sugars, starches, foliage, and yes, blooms.

**If you want to have these results, you must not compromise on your soil!** Ω

By Robert Sutherland      robertje@insightbb.com

## Showing and Judging Minifloras

When it comes to showing and judging minifloras, there are really only two things you need to keep in mind—what the judging guidelines tell you and what they don't.

First, let's focus on what the guidelines tell us. Before reading through the guidelines, I recommend that you make sure you're working from the most recent version. If you're like me and snapped up the new guidelines the minute they were available, your miniflora chapter is out of date. You should be working from the January 2005 version, which is available for download at the ARS website,

[http://www.ars.org/Judges/for\\_judges.htm](http://www.ars.org/Judges/for_judges.htm).

Working from the correct guidelines version, we glean a decent amount of information from those four pages. For individual blooms, the six judging elements are the same as those



**'Dr. Troy Garrett', hybridized by Whit Wells, has rich color and good exhibition potential.**

for hybrid tea roses, so if you know what good form is for a hybrid tea, you know good form for a miniflora. Ditto for substance, color, stem and foliage, and balance and proportion. The sixth element, size, is different in this version from the prior one. The original version of the guidelines called for the miniflora to be judged in a manner reminiscent of the criteria that Goldilocks used for evaluating porridge—not too big and not too small—just right for the variety. In the current version of the guidelines, they are explicit: bigger is better. So all other things being equal, the bigger rose wins. For sprays, we read that the same judging criteria should be used as those used in evaluating floribunda sprays. After listing the certificates for which minifloras are eligible, that's the sum total of what the guidelines tell us.

Now, what are some things the guidelines don't tell us? As of this writing, there are slightly fewer than 400 minifloras registered, and they are increasing at a very fast pace. Miniatures are also registered at a fast pace and often shown by hybridizers and select growers within a short time of a variety being registered. How are exhibitors and judges to keep up with new registrations? And even more difficult, how do we keep up with changes in classifica-

tions? At a show, you may have two



**Robbie Tucker's 'Conundrum' is a banker in the miniflora class, eye-catching color, perfect form, and great vigor.**

problems—being faced with an unfamiliar variety, and not knowing whether a bloom should be exhibited as a miniature or miniflora.

The key here lies in a set of two lists. One list is found on the ARS website for judges, and has the current month's miniflora list. The second is the up-to-the-minute registration site found at

<http://64.78.40.53/irar/newregis.asp>.

From this site, you can sort by name, AEN, hybridizer, color, or date. I recommend sorting by date to see what the newest registrations are but then printing out the list sorted by Approved Exhibition Name for ease in finding the variety you need when filling out entry tags or judging a

(Continued on page 10)

## Minifloras (Continued)

specimen in the show.

With these two printouts, you can compare any rose in question to those on the list. If it isn't on the miniflora list, it is a miniature. It is imperative that you check this list immediately before a show, because registrations change. This is true for both exhibitors and judges. To illustrate the point, as I was preparing information on minifloras for a judging school, one of the varieties in question had changed registrations just ten days earlier from mini to miniflora. Another had changed just five days earlier! If you are exhibiting a newly registered variety, I would recommend pointing this out to the chairman of judges and showing him or her proof of registration so that the judges can be informed about the rose and avoid any unnecessary confusion, or worse, disqualification.



Whit's 'My Inspiration' bears a strong resemblance to 'Regina Lee'.

As a judge or exhibitor, what should you bring to the show for reference material?

Let me recommend your handbook, which will cover 80-90% of the minifloras you will need to know. The CRL may cover some, but the monthly list and new registrations listing referenced above are mandatory for having the most up to date information at a show. *Modern Roses* will, unfortunately, be hopelessly out of date until a new edition is published.

As a judge, never be embarrassed to consult with your fellow judges if there is a question about a rose's classification. In fairness to the exhibitors, we owe it to them to render a fair verdict on their entries and not disqualify as misclassified something that is really placed properly.

One of the axioms of judging is that you have to grow them to know them. With the pace of miniflora introductions, it is impractical, if not downright impossible, to do this for all the new introductions.

While I try very hard to keep up with the highest potential new roses, I can't possibly afford the space, money, and effort to grow them all, so I have to be selective. That doesn't mean, however, that others won't be growing the varieties I didn't choose. So I still need to be as familiar with those as I can be, as a competitor and as an evaluator. One way to learn about these is to check out the varieties grown locally in your area. But chances are if you're reading this that yours is the garden everyone will be visiting to check out the newest cultivars! In lieu of seeing the actual roses, the next best way to learn about the newest varieties is to check out their photographs. Sites like Rosemania, Almost Heaven, Bridges Roses, Johnny Becnel, Nor East, and Two Sisters have many of the most recent miniature and miniflora photographs on their sites.

You can also see photos on helpme-find.com, or The Rosarian's Corner.

These sources are especially good to see what a rose looks like growing in someone's garden instead of the glamour shot photos in many catalogs and web sites. Keep in mind that roses grow differently in the diverse regions of the country and may look substantially different on the coast from how they do in the midwest or southeast. But in the absence of the



Bob Martin's 'Butter Cream' is a miniflora banker that judges need to recognize on the tables.

experience of growing a plant, a photograph may be the next best thing you can have to become familiar with a variety.

Now that we exhibitors are armed with our handbook and lists, we should never have a miniature or miniflora disqualified again for being misclassified. And as judges, if we carry these lists and a mental picture of the newest varieties we won't improperly disqualify minifloras for that reason. This certainly won't eliminate all the grumbling about how shows are judged, but it can at least eliminate an avoidable source of mistakes, and that's a big step toward a fair and educational rose show.

*Editor's Note: With the strong presence of miniflora hybridizers living in and near our district, it is especially important that we as judges and exhibitors keep up to date with these new introductions and classification changes.*

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David Clemons' 'Whirlaway' sets the standard for white minifloras.

# Winter Workshop Photos



John Hefner gives some one-on-one instruction at the Winter Workshop.



Susan Liberta gave an informative program on dried arrangements.



Ping Lim spoke enthusiastically and lovingly about his passion for hybridizing disease-resistant roses.



Master Rosarians Martin Skinner, Rhonda Spruiell, Joseph Spruiell, and Peggy Bingham accept their recognition.



Peggy Bingham was named the district's Outstanding Arrangements Judge for 2006.



Tommy Cairns spoke at the banquet about the WFRS convention in Osaka—and the blue rose.

## **KATnips**

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## ***KATnips***

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**Students aren't the only ones who enjoy 'Spring Break'. This baby bird does, too.**

KATnips is the quarterly newsletter of the Tenarky District of the American Rose Society. Tenarky encompasses members of the American Rose Society residing in the states of Tennessee, Eastern Arkansas, and Kentucky. The newsletter is provided free in electronic format or by subscription for printed mailed copies. Photos and articles, along with positive and negative feedback may be directed to the editor at the above address or by email at [robertje@insightbb.com](mailto:robertje@insightbb.com).

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