



**Page One: The News:**

**1. American Rose Society President Steve Jones on the problems with the ‘American Rose:’**

“I am very sorry about the delay in the delivery of the magazine. I hope that all members have received the January and February issues by now. The American Rose Annual delayed magazine operations and we cannot continue to operate this way. The major unexpected development was that the publisher changed hands and unexpectedly demanded payment up front—which the ARS did not have after paying for the Annual.

We hope to have the March issue delivered before the end of the month, and the April issue by mid-month. The May issue should be on schedule. If the revenue enhancement plans succeed as expected, the last half of the year will operate with normal delivery.”

**2. 2006 Website Awards:**

- The 2006 ARS Local Society Website Awards:  
Queen: California Coast Rose Society: Brenda Landers-Smith  
King: Connecticut Rose Society: David Candler  
Princess: Marin Rose Society: Gail Trimble  
Honorable Mention: Riverside Rose Society: Glenn Fiery
- The 2006 ARS District Website Awards:  
Queen: Pacific Southwest District: Glenn Fiery, Webmaster  
King: Colonial District: Charles Shearer, Webmaster  
Princess: Tenarky District: Claire L. Campbell, Webmistress  
Honorable Mention: Yankee District: Patsy Cunningham, Webmistress

**3. St. Paul ‘Roses on the River Front’ National Convention June 28<sup>th</sup> - July 2<sup>nd</sup>.**

On Saturday June 29<sup>th</sup>, the famed Washaba Caves, mined out in the 1800 and home to Big Bands in the 1930’s as well as dapper gangsters dancing their lives away, will be the venue of a ‘Gangster and Mystery Play;’ presiding over events will be The Godfather, Steve Jones. (For more information about the Convention, check the Twin Cities website:

<http://twincitiesrose.org/2007convention>)

4. A proposal to increase ARS dues will be considered by the ARS Board at the St. Paul Convention; thrifty-minded members might want to lock in current dues rates through multiple year memberships before the increase takes effect.

5. For information on the All Mini Rose Show in May, there is a computer link at [www.carolinadistrict.org](http://www.carolinadistrict.org). Click on the Events icon and then click on All Mini Show.

**Page Two: Views: Uses of a District Speaker's Bureaus. 'Mif' Clausen is the current Director of the Illiana District Speaker's Bureau as well as a member of the Local Society Relations Committee.**

How Does a Speakers Bureau Serve Local Societies?

An effective Speakers Bureau is one way of reaching out to all interested gardeners. Several years ago the Illinois-Indiana District developed a Speakers Bureau program with the purposes of giving out the latest information to both novice and experienced rosarians. Today, the Speaker's Bureau has become an important part of our district activities.

In order to bake a prize winning cake, one must follow the recipe. The same adage is true with regard to a successful Speakers Bureau. A few ingredients that are necessary to make an effective Speaker's Bureau include the following advice for speakers

- Dedication and enthusiasm: An effective program presenter must have enthusiasm for the subject matter. Where there is enthusiasm, there is also success. Dedicated and enthusiastic speakers are an absolute plus for planning local programs.
- Qualifications: Any member of the Speakers Bureau should be well informed and knowledgeable in many areas of rose culture. It is vitally important to know your subject and give out accurate information. Most of the members of the Illiana Speakers Bureau are ARS Consulting Rosarians, Master Rosarians, and/or Judges.
- Types of Programs: Speakers must have a little flavor in their garden programs. I recommend using slides, overheads, or PowerPoint presentations. The local society audiences appreciate pictures of beautiful gardens and roses. Encourage novice rosarians to do it right from the start. Be sure to add a little humor and stay within your time limit.
- Practice What you Preach: A speaker's garden should be an exemplar of good gardening practices. Even better, invite members of the audience to visit your rose garden.
- Courtesy: Speakers should be on time and well dressed. First impressions are lasting.
- Program Titles: The following are a beginning of the possibilities:
  - The Importance of Good Soil
  - A Recipe for Growing Good Roses
  - How to Groom a Queen
  - Roses That Grow well in the District
  - What Judges want to See in Your Rose Exhibit
  - Chemical Applications and Safety
  - Garden and Landscape Design
  - Organic Gardening Alternatives

I hope the information and suggestions above will entice you to use or create a District Speakers Bureau. The members of the Speakers Bureau can have a last effect on the future of local rose societies as well as the American Rose Society. There is no better way to foster ARS membership information than by word of mouth. If all rose society members would give a little of their time and talent, the end results would be most rewarding.

I would like to close with a quote that appeared in one of the Rose Leader publications a few years ago. Dr. John Dickman stated that (rose) "Societies, like plants, are living organisms that need cultivation and nourishment." A Speakers Bureau can contribute to that effort.

For more information, e-mail 'Mif' Clausen at [m.clausen@mchsi.com](mailto:m.clausen@mchsi.com). More information and suggestions about society programs appear in the White Book, pp.67-71.

### **Page Three: Re-Views: Looking at Bylaws.....**

There is no good time to look at the state of a rose society's Bylaws. The absolute worst time is when there is a crisis necessitating a look at the Bylaws. Most of the time, however, 'muddling through' seems to work well enough for people in leadership roles to remain friends, conduct business, and conclude the calendar year without a major disaster. But any checkup on the Bylaws might include a few basics such as the following:

- Are the people who perform the major tasks sitting on the Board of Directors? Whoever arranges programs or organizes membership drives ought to be present when major decisions are made. Linking function and responsibility fosters close collaboration between the governance of a society and its actual working.
- Updating requirements. Is the number of members required for a quorum consistent with the number of people who actually attend monthly meetings? Is the number of required meetings of the society or the Board consistent with actual practice? Do the Bylaws reflect new technologies like having Board meetings via listservers?
- Voting and membership. Are all members of a household membership permitted one vote each? May Honorary members vote? Are there any Honorary members? Is there a procedure to permit Honorary members—for a term of years or life?
- Has the Publications section been amended to permit a website? Are there policies to indicate that the website and the newsletter reflect the views of the Board?
- Is a rose show required in the Bylaws? If not, is there a section dealing with the educational functions and activities of the rose society?

Generally, there is good reason for the rules of a society to correspond with the ways in which a society is run. Such a practice promotes understanding among all the members and deters litigation or other organizational dysfunctions.

(For more suggestions about Bylaws, consult the White Book at pp 41-43.)

To comment on any item in the monthly e-mail, please consult the list of committee members of the Local Society Relations Committee published on the American Rose Society website: [www.ars.org](http://www.ars.org). Items and articles in this publication may be freely adapted by members of the ARS for educational purposes.