

KATrips

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

SPRING '06

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Upcoming Events

ARS Spring Convention

June 21-26

Seattle, WA

All Mini Convention

July 21-23

Harrisburg, PA

Tenarky Fall Convention

Knoxville, TN

September 29-October 1

Noah Wilson Wins Silver

At the 2006 Tenarky mid-winter meeting, Noah Wilson of Knoxville, Tennessee, was awarded the district's highest award—the Silver Honor Medal.

For many years of service to the rose, Noah received this much-deserved distinction. In addition to his countless lectures, presentations, judging assignments, and responses to questions, Noah is known for a quick wit and wonderful sense of humor. When accepting the award in Bowling Green, Noah commented, "I know you only voted for me be-

cause of my looks..." Noah has previously earned the Outstanding Consulting Rosarian Award, Out-

standing Horticulture Judge as well as an Outstanding Arrangements Judge. The year's Outstanding Horticulture Judge was Jimmy Moser, of Memphis, TN, a previous Silver Honor Medal Honoree.

The district awarded its first Outstanding Arrangement Judge's Award to Aliene Eilertsen of Memphis, TN.

Paula Adlong of Central Arkansas earned the Outstanding Con-

sulting Rosarian Award and becomes the last member of that society to earn any Tenarky awards, since they have moved to another district.



Noah Wilson received Tenarky's 2005 Silver Honor Medal.

standing Judge Award, and the Holston Rose Society's Bronze Medal.

In other notable awards, the Outstanding Judge's award was refined by selecting an

Knoxville to Host Fall Convention

The Tennessee, Knoxville, and Holston Rose societies invite you to Knoxville, Tennessee, for Tenarky's fall convention to be held September 29-October 1, at the Hilton Knoxville Airport Hotel.

Highlights of the convention include a Friday night reception, Saturday rose show and programs, and a Sunday judging school.

For more information, contact Tom Carlson (865) 691-

1704 or Rhonda Spruiell (865) 693-3200. Details will also be available on the Tenarky website. Registration and program information will be included in the summer newsletter.

We Know What You're Wearing

The NASA website tells us that there are 2,500 satellites orbiting the earth right now. Chances are that one is watching you.

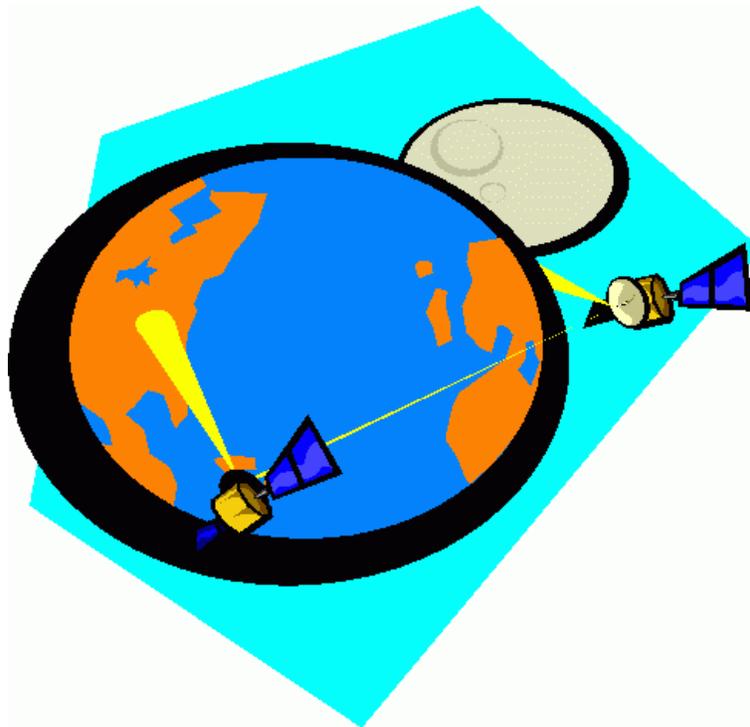
These satellites do a lot to benefit our society. Communications would be slow and expensive without them transmitting signals from across the planet. And how many of us have those little dishes mounted on our houses or in our yards bringing us our favorite high definition television programs? Satellites help us monitor the weather, regulate and control world finances, and educate our children.

But they have another purpose, one the government innocuously refers to as "surveillance."

Government surveillance is not new—it's been around at least half a century. They are experts at monitoring phone calls, personal contacts, and mail correspondence without the recipient's knowledge. But now, with the use of satellite imagery, the Department of Homeland Security is able to monitor you. High resolution photographs are recorded of the entire United States every 15 minutes. These photos are detailed enough to see how many stepping stones are in your garden, the number of chil-

dren swinging in a park, and even what you are wearing—or not wearing.

One of the threats the agency is taking seriously is the lack of PPE, personal protective equipment, that rosarians are using



Satellites are a great benefit to society, but they are also watching you.

when spraying their roses. "When using insecticides and fungicides, most consumers are woefully lacking in the level of protection they are utilizing," reported a government source who asked not to be identified.

Based on a random survey of 1000 satellite images from across the US, the agency noted that 69.4% of the rosarians were not wearing one or more of the required articles of PPE. The most commonly omitted article was

the respirator, followed by goggles, hats, and gloves. A full 32% of those caught on satellite imagery weren't wearing any protective equipment at all. Some pot-bellied men were spraying without even wearing a shirt, something the agency called "disturbing—in more ways than one."

While the government has only the citizens' best interests at heart, a new group, the ARLU (the American Rose Liberties Union) has launched a lawsuit seeking an injunction against the government intrusion into rosarians private lives. "Rosarians are intelligent, hard-working people who pay their taxes, love their roses, and, most importantly, have their Constitutional rights. If they

choose not to wear protective equipment and kill themselves or blind themselves with chemicals, that's their own business. The government has no right to tell us how we should live our lives." No report on the lawsuit's status has been received as of this writing.

The American Rose Society has not taken a position on the spying issue, but they were quick to comment "Always read and follow label directions."

From the Director

Judging from the published reports in some of our society newsletters, letters from program participants, and verbal accolades and letters from those who attended, this year's Midwinter Workshop was a smashing success. I regret that a few individuals couldn't get here because of the possibility of snow and ice, but attendance remained about as usual at the mid-eighties.

Other than the educational and entertainment value of the programs, the superb quality of the facilities are most often mentioned in the "feedback" we receive. Also, many of you are quick to point out the costs are very acceptable. For your early information, I have reserved our Bowling Green facilities for 2007 a week later than we met this year, the actual date being February 23-24, 2007. It not only involved availability and costs but also the probability of less risky weather. Should we change the name to simply Tenarky Workshop and forget the "midwinter" part?

Finally, I want to say that the outgoing congeniality of our Bowling Green Society members, and all attending Tenarky members in general, was especially lauded by our program participants as important to the event. The camaraderie and resulting festive atmosphere received high praise from these folks who travel to many such events giving programs. Thank you one and all!

Bylaws

As all of you know, the Bylaws which we discussed and passed at our February meeting still must be passed by the American Rose Society Board of Directors before they go into effect. Just to be safe, I sent a copy of what we approved, to a friend, Eddie Garcia, who is Director of the South Central District and Chairman of the ARS Bylaws committee. He made several suggestions, most, but not all, of which were minor. If we are to hope for easy passage by the ARS Board, these changes must be

made. It is too late for Seattle, but some time this spring or summer, all Tenarky societies and Tenarky officers will receive copies of the Bylaws with the proposed changes included. If all societies will examine and pass the changed version, we will be able to take it to Dallas this fall. I hope you do not have a problem with this idea of working by mail. Just remember that the "rules of amendment" as stated in the current version do not apply at this time, because we are not dealing with an official document until it is accepted by the ARS Board. We are still in the process of writing!

It has been many years if and/or since Tenarky has had Bylaws. It is best to proceed slowly and surely and "get it right." It would be difficult to accept a "turndown" at the ARS Board!

Here's wishing everyone the best rose season ever! I look forward to seeing many of you at the spring shows.

Kent

New CR Chair

Effectively immediately, our new district Consulting Rosarian Chair is Robert Jacobs of Bowling Green, KY. Bob is a familiar face to attendees of our Mid-Winter workshops and is an active CR in the Bowling Green Society. You can contact him by any of the following methods:

Mail: 1609 Seminole Way, Bowling Green, KY 42103.

E-mail: r.jacobsa@insightbb.com

Phone: 270-781-2592.

VP Candidate Information

Editor's Note: Of the three candidates running for the office of American Rose Society Vice President, Jeff Wyckoff and Bob Martin have supplied information to KATnips for you to consider their candidacy for that office. Ed Griffith did not respond to repeated email requests. The statements are presented in their entirety in the order received. The ARS VP will ascend to the Presidency in 2009. Let your vote count and your voice be heard as you exercise your choice in this year's election.

ARS Members and Rose Friends:

I am running for ARS Vice-President in the upcoming election because, in these times of declining membership and rising costs, the ARS needs experienced and visionary leadership to increase both its membership and its membership services.

I am running for Vice-President because I have the experience in ARS government – 6 years on the Board of Directors, three of which were also spent on the Executive Committee, plus 3 years on the Long Range Planning Committee – unequaled by my two opponents.

I am running for V.P. because I have been directly involved in the ARS' most important membership service – its publications - for 15 years, to include 15 uninterrupted years as a member of the Editorial Advisory Committee, 9 of them as Chairman; Guest Editor of the 1994 *Annual*; 15 years as Editor and coordinator of the "Rose Tips" column in the *American Rose*; and frequent contributor of articles to both the magazine and the *Annual*.

I am running because I believe in the educational value of our rose shows, and to that end am currently serving as National Chairman of Horticultural Judges, in which capacity I originated the online *Judges' Journal* to discuss and debate judging issues and problems, and have held judging seminars at the last four national conventions.

Having served 3 years as

Vice-Chairman of the ARS Finance Committee, I am intimately familiar with ARS finances and the steps necessary to maintain the society's financial health. Having served 9 straight years on the Educational Endowment Committee, I fully support the society's educational mandate in promoting knowledge and enjoyment of the rose.

I have served the last 3 years on the ARS Membership Committee, and the proposal that I introduced three years ago has been the mainstay of the committee's membership recruitment since that time: that the most effective means of gaining new members is for each existing member to give one ARS gift membership per year, something that can easily be dovetailed into a number of gift-giving occasions.

I am running for Vice President because I love roses, and because I believe that the continuing health and vigor of the American Rose Society is crucial for fostering the love and growing of roses in this country. For more information on me, my candidacy, and my positions on ARS issues, please see my website at www.jeffsrose.com. I thank you for your involvement and interest in the American Rose Society, and ask for your vote for Vice President in the June election.

Jeff Wyckoff

I've been growing roses for 34 years and learned a long time ago that the rose is generous and always gives back in multiples in return for whatever we put into it. And so it has been with rose societies, both at the local and national level. The more I have put into rose societies, the more I have received in return, in knowledge, joy and in the friendship of the wonderful people I have met whose bond is a shared interest in the rose, America's floral emblem. Now I would like to continue my service by becoming the next Vice President of the American Rose Society.

I am currently the Pacific Southwest

District Director and serve on the five-member Executive Committee of the ARS, having been elected twice to that position by the current board members. I also serve as chairman of the ARS Horticultural Exhibitors Committee and editor of the ARS quarterly publication, *Rose Exhibitors' Forum*. I have held many local and district offices, am a Master Rosarian, Horticultural Judge and Arrangements Judge, and am a recipient of the district Silver Honor Medal, and the Bronze Medal from two local societies.

I do this because I love roses. There is nothing about roses that does not interest me. I grow roses, show roses, create roses, arrange roses, study roses, write about roses and speak about roses. I celebrate the diversity of roses and of those who grow them.

I am also effective at communication. As an attorney of 35 years my profession is one of communication and advocacy. The ARS Vice President and President are the spokespersons for our society. I have spoken at numerous national conventions, as a principal speaker at district conventions in 10 of the 18 districts, at innumerable local societies, CR seminars, judging seminars, rose auctions and public rose events. I have also authored over 500 published articles on roses that have appeared in society publications, as well as the book "Showing Good Roses".

Finally, I have a sense of humor. It comes from the joy of roses. It comes through in my speaking, writing and just talking about roses. This hobby is fun. To me there are the two great plant divisions: "roses and shade plants". I believe ARS members will be proud to have me as spokesman for the roses.

You can learn more about my candidacy and qualifications at my website www.RoseShow.com. Please visit and write me to share your thoughts on how we can be of service to the rose.

Robert B. Martin, Jr.

Top Exhibition Roses of the South Central US

Different roses perform differently in different places. Rosarians who have attended rose shows in areas outside of their own district know this. And so it is not enough, in the selection of top exhibition varieties, to look solely at the national data; instead it is also useful to examine results of shows closer to home.

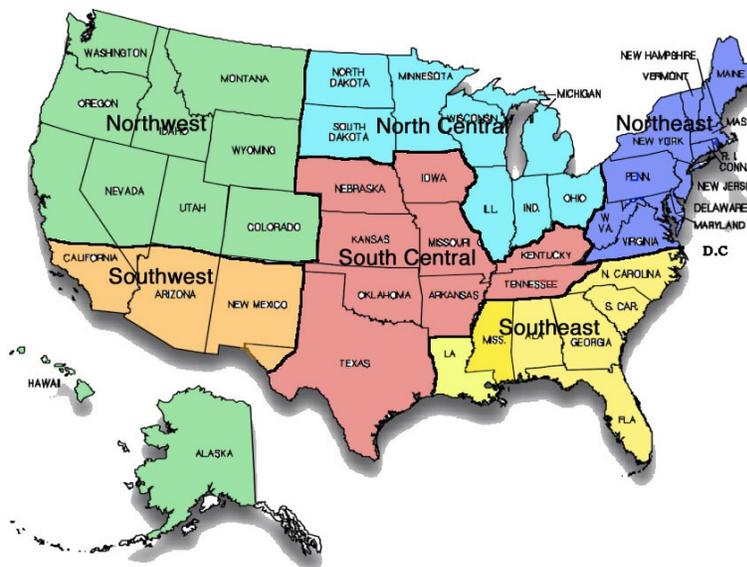
As the editor of *Rose Exhibitors' Forum*, I receive the show results from throughout the country. With these results, I publish an annual 5-year and 10-year national compilation of top exhibition hybrid teas, floribundas and miniature/mini-floras in the *American Rose* magazine. Also, in *Rose Exhibitors' Forum*, I publish all of the reported results and write occasional articles on regional variations in those results.

The top show roses are different in different parts of the country. The reason primarily has to do with differences in climate, but there are other factors as well, including differences in the preferences of judges and exhibitors. So to explore these differences, I have divided the United States into six different regions and sorted the show results over the last five years into each region to determine the top roses in each reporting category. The results of this study for the South Central region are set forth in this article.

The regions are large, and great climate differences exist within many. However, I made the selections with a view both to the data available and the need to retain a large enough statistical sample to make comparisons. Show results are reported by ARS district so I placed each district in a region based on geographic location and the climate zones in the Sunset National Garden Book. Under this system, the South Central region includes

the ARS Central, South Central and Tenarky districts.

With the hybrid teas, I tallied points for roses awarded royalty using my standard system which awards six points for Queen, five for King, four for Princess and three points for each rose on the Court of Honor. Unlike other point



tabulations reported in the *American Rose* and *Rose Exhibitors' Forum*, I did not award points for roses staged in the principal challenge classes of national and district shows, since this would have required an examination of the residence of each exhibitor, and I concluded the results would not be worth the effort and time. I used the same system with respect to miniatures and mini-floras. In all the other categories, I simply tallied the number of trophies recorded. All of the results are set forth in the tables accompanying this article.

Hybrid Teas

Beginning with the hybrid teas, the top exhibition rose in the South Central region is the beautiful deep red, 'Veterans' Honor', which enjoys a top ten ranking in every region as well, and is clearly the best red exhibition rose. This is the only region in which it is ranked No. 1, although it is No. 2 in both the adjoining Southeast region and North Central regions.

The No. 2 hybrid tea is 'Moonstone', which continues at the top of the national 5-year rankings, having finished as the No. 1 exhibition rose in three of the past five years. It is also in the top ten of all six regions, and is ranked No. 1 in the North Central and Northeast regions. It also enjoys a No. 2 ranking in the Southwest, and a No. 3 ranking in the neighboring Southeast.

Louise Estes' is ranked No. 3 and is in the top 25 ranking of four other regions, including its only No. 1 finish in the neighboring Southeast. In the No. 4 position is 'St Patrick', the beautiful yellow AARS winner. The chlorophyll in the petals of 'St Patrick' makes it a great lover of heat and sunshine and it is also in the top ten in the Southeast and Southwest regions, as well as the Northwest, where the moisture and cooler temperatures bring out the green. However, its offspring, the apricot 'Marilyn Monroe', a more recent introduction that performs well in the Southwest, does not appear on the Southeast list at all.

In fifth place is 'Hot Princess', the electric pink florist rose, which clearly loves the heat and sunshine of the South. It is also ranked No. 4 in the neighboring Southeast region and appears in the top 25 of all regions but the



Veterans' Honor, top hybrid tea in the South Central region.

colder North Central.

The No. 6 ranking goes to 'Gemini', which was the top hybrid tea in the nation in 2005 and is also the No. 1 rose throughout the west. The No. 6 ranking in the South Central region, together with a No. 5 ranking in the adjoining Southeast region, are the lowest rankings in the country. It is, however, in the top ten of all six regions and is clearly a superior exhibition rose, one of the very best hybrid teas ever introduced. It was also a AARS winner and was the winner of the 2004 American Rose Society Member's Choice Award as the top rated rose in Roses in Review. It is therefore both an excellent exhibition rose and an excellent garden rose.

The pure white 'Crystalline' ranks No. 7 in this region. This tends to be more of an exhibitor's rose, because when it is right, it is an extraordinary exhibition rose. But it does require a great deal of disbudding to get that one bloom, and requires careful spraying. The old favorite, 'Touch of Class', once the nation's top exhibition rose, continues to do well here with a No. 8 ranking.

Rounding out the top ten are the florist rose 'Raphaella', which at No. 9 enjoys its highest ranking in the country. 'Signature', ranked No. 10, continues to be a top exhibition variety and appears in the top ten of all six regions. It is known for its sensitive foliage and is also more of an exhibitors' rose than a recommended garden rose.

All but one of the regions have roses on their list that are unique to it. In the South Central region, 'Classic Touch' (#16) 'Affirm' (#18) and 'Fantasy' (#22) are unique and appear on the lists in no other region. 'Lynette' (#15) and 'Raspberry Swirls' (#20) are both near-unique, appearing in the top 25 in only the South Central and Southeast regions.

Miniatures

Among the miniature roses, the national No. 1, 'Fairhope' is No. 1 in the South Central region by a wide margin. 'Fairhope' has been the national number one exhibition miniature for ten years, and is number one throughout the

south and center of the country. In the nation's upper corners, however, it is second to 'Irresistible', which ranks No. 2 in the here. 'Irresistible' has many more petals than 'Fairhope' and performs better in cooler, coastal climates.

The No. 3 miniature in the region is 'Soptimist International', which is No.2 all along the east coast and is in the top 25 in all regions. Fourth is the red 'Miss Flippins', which is in the top ten in all six regions, but does show much more strength in the south than in the north.

The oddly-colored 'Lady E'owyn' is fifth in the region, the land of its birth – the highest national ranking. It does not crack the top ten anywhere else and is not in the top 25 on the west coast. The outstanding 2005 Member's Choice winner, 'Bee's Knees' is now ranked



Bee's Knees, the 2005 Member's Choice recipient, is ranked sixth and rising.

No. 6 in the South Central region and is rising here, as in the rest of the country. It is also a beautiful and easy-growing garden rose that should be considered for every garden. 'Hot Tamale' weighs in at No. 7, while 'Arcanum' and 'Incognito' round out the top ten.

The growing influence of the mini-floras, now begins to appear in the South Central rankings, as more shows have introduced a separate royalty and court for mini-floras. The leading mini-flora is 'Lady E'owyn' (#5), followed by 'Tiffany Lynn' (#11), the hot new red 'Memphis King' (#15) and the brightly-colored 'Conundrum' (#17).

'Memphis King' (#15) is unique to the region, as is 'Memphis Queen' (#22), likely because of their more regional distribution. Also unique are 'Odessa'

(#24) and 'Jilly Jewel' (#24).

The roses 'Chelsea Belle' (#19) and 'Linville' (#23) are near-unique, appearing only here and in the Northeast where they are Nos. 20 and 18, respectively. Also near-unique is 'Michel Cholet', at No. 20 here and appearing elsewhere only in the Southwest as No. 21.

Local hybridizer Robbie Tucker has five roses in the top 25, while Whit Wells has two.

The competition for the miniature spray shows the competitiveness of this class, here and throughout the nation. 'Child's Play' has a modest lead, followed by 'Green Ice' and 'Incognito' in a tie for second. South Central judges tend to prefer the exhibition form to the more decorative forms of miniatures in this class. However the latter are represented by 'Green Ice', 'Elfinglo' and 'Gourmet Popcorn'.

Floribundas

The floribunda spray class is led by 'Playgirl', which is also No. 1 in the Southeast and appears on the list in all six regions. 'Showbiz', also highly ranked in all six regions, is No. 2 in the South Central region. It is followed by 'Nicole', which is No. 1 in the Northeast and North Central regions.

Among those on the South Central list, 'Royal Occasion' and 'Bill Warriner' are unique. The remaining roses on the list are also top exhibition floribundas in other regions as well.

It may be noted that singles and semi-double roses are well-represented on the list, with 'Playgirl', 'Nicole', 'Lady of the Dawn', 'Playboy', 'International Herald Tribune' and 'Betty Boop'.

In the one-bloom-per-stem floribunda class, the South Central judges show something of a preference for exhibition-form floribundas. Leading the list is 'Sheila's Perfume', followed by the decorative rose, 'Scentimental'. 'Natali', with exhibition form follows, and the list includes exhibition-form varieties such as 'Kanegem' (#5) and 'French Lace' (#6). The judges do give a nod to the decorative form floribunda,

(Continued on page 8)

Top Exhibition Roses of the South Central US

with the aforementioned 'Sentimental', and 'Nicole' (#4), as well as the singles, 'Betty Boop' (#6), 'Playboy' (#8) and 'Playgirl' (#10).



Betty Boop and other decorative blooms show well in the one bloom floribunda class.

In assessing the rankings for the floribunda bloom, I have the sense that the differences that appear between the regions have less to do with climate, than with different judging preferences between the regions. The one-bloom-per-stem class is a class in which, at least theoretically, exhibition form roses compete on an equal footing with those of decorative form. In practice, this does not appear to be the case, except for the Northwest where the trophies are evenly divided. In the Southwest, however, few of the top roses normally show exhibition form. In contrast, regions in both the east and central portions of the country show a preference for roses of exhibition form.

Polyanthas, Climbers and Shrubs

Moving to other regions of the trophy table, the polyantha spray class is dominated nationally by three roses, 'The Fairy', 'China Doll', and 'Margo Koster'. In the South Central region, they finish in that order with 'The Fairy' maintaining a wide lead. The rose "Caldwell Pink", found locally in Texas, makes its only appearance here, though it may well be 'Pink Pet'.

The climber class has for several years been a two-

horse race between 'Altissimo' and 'Fourth of July'. Here there is no contest as 'Fourth of July' has a dominant lead. 'America' is No. 3, matching its national ranking, however its locally found pink sport 'Pearly Gates' is but sixth.

In the classic shrubs, the hybrid kordeisii 'Dortmund' leads the list, as it does in four of the six regions. It is followed by the hybrid rugosa, 'Linda Campbell' and the hybrid musk 'Belinda'. The hybrid rugosa, 'Therese Bugnet' and the hybrid musk 'Robin Hood' tie for fourth.

The modern shrub class is led nationally by 'Graham Thomas', first in three regions, and 'Sally Holmes', first in two. In the South Central Region, 'Sally Holmes' leads by a wide margin, with 'Graham Thomas' in a three-way tie for fourth. The AARS winning 'Bonica' and 'Flutterbye', are tied for second. The eleven roses represent a diverse group of shrubs. Notably, there are only three David Austin roses on the list, which, compared, with the rankings in the other regions, is small.

Old Garden Roses

Completing the analysis with the old garden roses, the national leaders in the Dowager/Genesis are 'Baronne Prevost' and 'Sombreuil', which are No. 1 in two regions each. In the South Central region, however, the No. 1 rose is 'Souv de la Malmaison', followed by 'Marchesa Boccella' and 'Sombreuil' is at the bottom in a tie for ninth. The number two OGR in the South Central is 'Marchesa Boccella'. 'Baronne Prevost' is fifth, behind 'Green Rose'. Three of the roses on the list are species roses, reflecting the influence of the Genesis award.

In the Victorian class, it is all about 'Rose de Rescht', the No. 1 winner in five of the six regions. In the South Central region, however, it has only a one-trophy lead over 'Paul Neyron', which is No. 1 in the neighboring Southeast. In third place is 'Pink Pet', which is likely to be reclassified as a polyantha. The climbing Bourbon



Rose de Rescht barely squeaks by Paul Neyron as top Victorian.

'Zepherine Drouhin' finishes fourth. As a historical note, I have removed 'Irene Watts' from the Victorian class rankings since it has been subsequently ruled that the rose known and shown as 'Irene Watts' is an imposter, and is really 'Pink Gruss an Aachen', a floribunda ineligible for the class. But for this technicality, the rose formerly known as "Irene Watts" would have been tied for fourth in the South Central region.

Conclusion

For those who show roses, I hope these lists will be of value in demonstrating what shows well in the South Central region. It should also be kept in mind that roses do well at rose shows because they make beautiful, symmetrical blooms and sprays. So, for those who love to cut beautiful blooms, or enjoy them in their garden, most of the roses on these lists make good garden roses as well. And, the fact that they appear often on the show tables in the South Central region usually demonstrates that they grow well locally. So try out some beautiful exhibition roses for your garden.

** Robert B. Martin Jr. is the Editor of the ARS quarterly publication, 'Rose Exhibitors' Forum' and the Chairman of the ARS Horticultural Exhibitors' Committee. Show results are also reported at www.RoseShow.com.*

Growing Roses Like Jim and Barbara Preston

One of the best things about getting to know Jim and Barbara Preston is that they can talk about roses so that a novice or experienced rose grower can learn something by being around them a relatively short time. In May, they spoke to the Lexington Rose Society and gave this program on growing good roses, suitable for the novice or the advanced rosarian.

Remember that roses are nothing but prickly shrubs with ornamental flowers. They are, however, the most invasive plant in our yard! Growing roses shouldn't scare the novice, because growing good roses can be accomplished by the novice with only six things:

- 1) A few good garden roses
- 2) A sunny spot
- 3) A \$50 hole for a \$5 plant
- 4) A bottle of Monty's plant food
- 5) A bottle of Bayer's Advanced 3 in 1 or Ortho Rose Pride and sprayer
- 6) Large Watering Can.

It's really that simple. You can, however, grow roses with a lot more gadgets and chemicals, but these are the ba-



Crystalline, the Prestons's Queen of Show in Louisville, 2005. Photo Linda Jansing.

sics. If you want to grow them the way we do, here are how we apply those steps.

A few good garden roses

We started growing roses in 2000 with

favorites like Mr. Lincoln, Garden Party, and Tropicana. Now we also enjoy exhibition roses like Crystalline, Bee's Knees, Elsie Melton, and Dr. John Dickman. There are several roses with potential including hybrid teas Cajun Sunrise, Cajun Pearl, Marilyn Wellan, and White Timeless. In smaller roses, we think Madeline and Rachel have a chance to be good. Our "few" roses are up to 453 right now including all types on several different rootstocks.



Some of the best roses in Kentucky are grown in the Prestons' Louisville garden.

A sunny spot

A well-drained spot away from trees works best, but we actually do grow some roses under trees successfully.

We also keep weeds out and mulch in by lining the beds with four inch green steel edging material found at your local home store.

A \$50 hole for a \$5 plant

It all starts with a soil test. Samples are collected and sent to the County Extension office for analysis. We get back a report that tells us our pH and nutrient analysis. Corrections are made as necessary. We add organics (alfalfa meal, fish meal, and cottonseed meal) to our soil to help the microbial activity. We've added manure, leaves, and even worms to improve the soil! We've also used kelp meal, Epsom salts, and chicken manure tea. If you ask Barbara, what we feed, she'll reply "What haven't we tried?!"

When your rose is planted, it should be pruned. Our favorite tool is a pair of Felco pruners which we have used approximately 10450 times. Always prune back to good wood, thin out spindly growth, and shovel prune varieties that you no longer want to grow.

A bottle of Monty's Plant Food

If we had to choose only one fertilizer, it would be Monty's Plant Food. We do supplement this with a lot of other fertilizers, though. In February, we put down a slow-release 14-14-14 from Isotek. We also jump start the growth



It's great to exhibit with a partner, particularly one who's as organized as Barbara.

(Continued on page 11)

Photos From Around the District



Monty Justice discusses his newest product with John and Sue Dickman at the Mid-Winter Workshop.



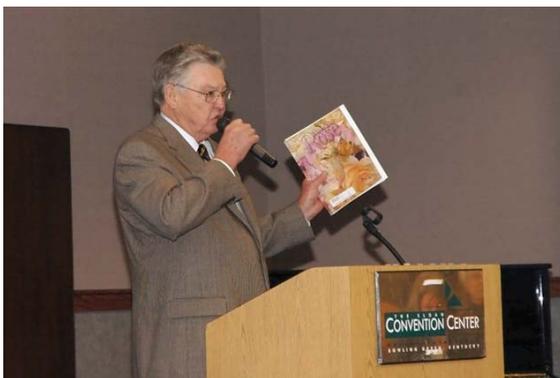
Attendees were treated to world-class programs and great fellowship in Bowling Green in February.



Nonagenarian Sara Hayes received the Holston Rose Society's Bronze Honor Medal for thirty years of service to the rose. Photo Martin Skinner.



Gaye Hammond was dynamic and enthusiastic about "EarthKind Roses."



Kent Campbell explains that all of this year's speakers were recently published in American Rose.



Mike Kuduk and Greg Sanders learn which of Whit's roses we'll be seeing on the head tables this year.

Growing Roses Like Jim and Barbara Preston

with Nitroform 38-0-0 in the spring. We use alfalfa tea fortified with Epsom salts, Monty's Joy Juice, and chelated Iron.

We feed often. We foliar feed Monty's when we spray and also foliar feed with Response during show season, and, not during show season, Saltwater Farms' Sea Rose seaweed and fish fertilizer. We don't use this last one during show season, though, because it contains molasses which will stick to the foliage and likely disqualify you for "foreign substance."

We generally feed at half the strength the manufacturer recommends because we feed so often. Liquids are stored in a 96 gallon trash can and pumped out via a sump pump to the roses for efficiently feeding the plants.

And, yes, we use Superthrive.



Grand Prize

A Bottle of Bayer 3 in 1 or Ortho Rose Pride

We don't have much problem with fungus because we spray every 7 – 11 days with alternating fungicides. We use a rotation of Banner Maxx, Compass, Cleary's 3336, and Rubigan supplemented with Dithane M45 (Manzate). Our sprayer is the Mantis 12 gallon battery-powered model that helps us cover our 450 roses efficiently. Spray-

ing starts in early March with Dithane to kill any fungi that may have overwintered in the beds. Remember to use sprays only the way the manufacturer



With very little back yard, the roses are grown in full view of the neighbors.

prescribes, and always wear your safety equipment.

Insects are aggravating to us, just like everyone. We get thrips (which we manage with Orthene and Avid), cucumber beetles (Mavrik), Japanese beetles (Merit), and spider mites (Floramite, Avid). We never spray until we see a pest. Also, keep records of what you spray to make sure you're rotating chemicals and to know exactly how long it's been since you sprayed.

We also use Indicate 5 in our spray to adjust the pH of the water and help spread the spray on the leaves.

A Large Watering Can

You could use a watering can, but with 450 roses, we have a less manual system. We have a system of soaker hoses hooked up to a splitter at the faucet that allows us to water multiple beds at once. We can't emphasize enough: water, water, water.

A Few Bonus Pointers for the Exhibitor

Blooms are covered to protect them from weather. We use a clear cookie jug mounted to conduit for large roses. For shading blooms, we use an aluminum sheet mounted on steel conduit, and for smaller roses, we use 8 or 16 ounce drink cups supported with 14 gauge wire.

Of course, you have to deadhead as needed to stimulate new growth. You can also study the plant while you're spending time removing the spent blooms.

On extremely hot days, we sprinkle the foliage to cool the plants. They really respond well to this.

And remember, that Grand Prize is a great floribunda. The Grand Prize may also be a blue ribbon at the State Fair, the Queen of the Show, or a neighbor's blueberry pie that she wants to share with you after you've brought her some of your award-winning roses.



Always dress appropriately and use the chemicals as prescribed.

KATnips

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KATnips

Visit Tenarky's website

For helpful information and up to date news,
see

www.tenarky.org



Nora Falkenberry of the Tri-State Rose Society submitted this beautiful photo of Garden Party, noting, "I guess old roses never die—they just get better."

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