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PEARL ESSENCE

◆ PACIFIC ◆ SOUTHWEST ◆ ROSE ◆



QUARTERLY BULLETIN ◆ AMERICAN ROSE SOCIETY ◆ PACIFIC SOUTHWEST DISTRICT

Steve Jones, District Director

Fall 2003

Kitty Belendez, Editor

PHOTO BY KITTY BELENDEZ



MESSAGE FROM THE DISTRICT DIRECTOR

Steve Jones
District Director
Pacific Southwest District

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It is with mixed emotions of deep sadness and great pleasure that I write my final District Director's message. It is the end of

my term as District Director representing the largest district in the American Rose Society for membership, but it also begins my new job as ARS Vice President. This is a new and exciting job, and I have already begun working with Marilyn Wellan, the next ARS President, on some of my campaign promises to help improve membership and educational services. I want to thank all of our district members who supported me in the election.

With good news comes the bad. We lost three top rosarians since the last district bulletin was issued: renowned hybridizer Joe Winchel of Harbor City, CA; Coe Applegate of El Cajon, CA; and John Farleigh of San Diego, CA. All will be missed for the great things they brought to roses.

Joe Winchel hybridized many great roses like 'Dolly Parton', 'Ain't She Sweet', 'Lynn Anderson' and 'Louise Estes'. He also was awarded the District Outstanding Consulting Rosarian in 1984.

Coe Applegate was District Co-Chair of Horticultural Judges (1994-1997), Consulting Rosarian, Judge, and exhibitor. He and his wife Rita were awarded the Silver Medal in 2002 and Outstanding Judges in 2003.

John Farleigh was a dear friend who taught me a lot about judging arrangements when I was an apprentice. John and his wife Jane traveled all over the district to judge until Jane passed away a few years back. John won the Silver Medal in 1981, Outstanding Consulting Rosarian in 1977, and Outstanding Judge in 1993.

On a personal note, our local society, Santa Clarita Valley Rose Society, lost one of its early and more colorful members. Norm Siefert passed away after a

battle with cancer. Norm was always the life of the party and an expert gopher catcher at Heritage Gardens. He even froze a stringer of his catch one week to show me. He will be sorely missed at our meetings. There is a memorial for Norm at

www.pswdistrict.org/text/articles/normsiefert.html.

All directors received a message from ARS headquarters asking for members to become Patrons. I believe that this is a great idea. All members who are serious about ARS and our hobby will want to be a Patron. Likewise, every local society should be Patrons. It is only \$100 a year and there are several other categories for \$250, \$500, \$1000, \$2500 and \$5000. Paul Wright challenged all of the Arizona rose societies to become Patrons and he succeeded. Let's carry Paul's challenge to all PSWD rose societies. I've been a Patron for many years and plan to sign up again. Just send a check to ARS or call them with a credit card number using the toll-free ARS number: 1-800-637-6534.

September 28, 2003 will mark the beginning of my new office and Bob Martin taking over as your District Director. I know Bob will do an excellent job and continue the education programs we worked so hard to establish during my term. It has been a pleasure serving our district members and I hope the tradition continues during my terms as ARS Vice President and President.

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Golden Celebration

Calendar

Saturday, September 13

Yavapai Rose Show

First Congregational Church
Prescott, AZ
Info: Phyllis Kelly (928) 776-4491
phyllkelly@cybertrails.com

September 20-21

***Albuquerque Rose Society
Fall Rose Show***

New Mexico State Fairgrounds
Info: Alan Troyer (505) 299-9590
troyer@swcp.com

September 24-29

ARS Fall National Convention

Washington, DC
Info: jjmirilovich@aol.com

Saturday, September 27-28

***California Coastal RS &
Armstrong Garden Centers
Rose Show***

Carlsbad, CA
Info: Chris Greenwood,
CrisGreen1@aol.com

Saturday, October 11

***10th Anniversary
Santa Clarita RS Rose Show***

Valencia Town Center
Info: Kitty Belendez
(661) 296-5033
rosectckb@aol.com

Saturday, October 11

East County Rose Society Show

Foothills Adult School, El Cajon, CA
Info: Miriam Yoder
(619) 463-6977
mirrose@earthlink.net

Saturday, October 11

***Rose Society of Tucson
Consulting Rosarian School***

Info: Liz Strong (520) 797-7890
lizzie1@mindspring.com

October 18-19

Los Angeles RS Rose Show

Descanso Gardens
La Canada, CA
Info: Lynn Snetsinger
(626) 446-5371
lynnsrose1953@aol.com

Saturday, October 25-26

Orange County RS Rose Show

Rodgers Gardens
Newport Beach CA
Info: Jan Brider
(714) 779-8032
janbrider@earthlink.net

Saturday, November 1

***Desert Rose Society
Rose Arrangement Seminar***

Portola Community Center
Palm Desert, CA
Info: Henry McCarty
(760) 346-9842
hrmccarty@earthlink.com

Sunday, November 2

***Rose Society of Green Valley
Rose Show***

East Social Center
Green Valley, AZ
Info: Rosemarie Beall
(520) 393-7063

Saturday, November 8

Desert Rose Society Rose Show

Palm Desert Community Center
Palm Desert, CA
Info: Henry McCarty
(760) 346-9842
hrmccarty@earthlink.com

Saturday, November 8

***West Valley Rose Society &
Sun City Rose & Garden Club
Rose Show***

Bell Recreation Center, Sun City AZ
Info: Ken Paris (602) 788-6027

From the Editor's Desk

By Kitty Belendez



Congratulations to Steve!

If you haven't heard by now, our District Director Steve Jones won the ARS election for Vice President. It was a very narrow margin, a mere 32 votes. All four candidates were well qualified, especially the top three. Steve simply worked a lot harder during his campaign to squeeze out those extra 32 votes ... the important 32 that made the

difference in the final results:

Steve Jones	1626
Ed Griffith	1594
Jeff Wyckoff	1391
George Hartley	633

New Editor

With the next issue of the district bulletin you will have a new editor, as I am retiring from the position. Your new editor will be Sue Munday of the Ventura County Rose Society. Please direct all inquiries regarding the bulletin, or subscription renewals, to Sue at smunday@west.net, or (805) 484-9937. Thanks to everyone who submitted articles for publication during my 3-year term as editor of *Pacific Southwest Rose*.

News Flash from ARS

APPROVED EXHIBITION NAMES

Thanks to Phil Schorr for providing this clarification on the Approved Exhibition Names from the American Rose Society. Judges and exhibitors are pleased to finally have the previous misinformation corrected.

Under current ARS rose show rules a rose not listed in an official ARS publication may be exhibited if it is listed in the *Combined Rose List*. Exhibitors and judges may take the primary name shown in the *CRL* as a temporary Approved Exhibition Name until the ARS publishes an AEN for the rose. This applies whether the listing in the *CRL* shows an "NR" after the name or not. Once the ARS publishes an AEN for the rose, the ARS listing takes precedence in case of any conflicts.

The Rose Registration database page on the ARS website is also considered as an official ARS publication for purposes of establishing AENs. Roses listed there are eligible to be exhibited using the AEN shown.

The new *Guidelines for Judging Roses* will be published later this fall. They will state that a rose listed only in the *Combined Rose List* will be considered to have received a "temporary AEN" until it is listed in an ARS publication. Once it is published in an ARS publication the ARS publication will take precedence when there is a conflict of fact such as class, color, etc. If a rose has never been listed in an ARS publication there can be no conflict with the listing in the *CRL*.

SOCIETY GEMS



PHOTO BY DON HARDY

Louise Major and Fran Hardy

Albuquerque Rose Society presented an engraved plaque to Ms. Louise Major for her many years of service. Louise joined the rose society in 1972 and has been on the telephone ever since. She is always willing to gather volunteers for any event. In

addition to all of her rose society work, for the past thirty years Louise has volunteered at all of the flower shows (roses or otherwise) associated with the New Mexico State Fair. That is eight shows in a two-week period each year. We are proud to have a volunteer of Ms. Major's caliber.

Desert Rose Society Several members of the Desert Rose Society helped Henry McCarty celebrate his 80th birthday on July 5 with a surprise party hosted by Sherry Szabo. A special challenge class is being added to this year's Desert Rose Show in honor of Henry's birthday and his contributions to the Desert Rose Society.

Los Angeles Rose Society For our June Potluck meeting we were treated to a fascinating and highly informative tour of the diverse Descanso Gardens International Rosarium by Robin Corwin, Editor of the *Friends of the Rosarium* newsletter. Additionally, our recent annual garden tour provided members with visits to gardens at Rose Hills, City of Hope, and the beautiful homes of Peter Lin, Robert & Mary Gonzalez and Alex Bout.

Rose Society of Green Valley has created the Ladies Rose Brigade who meet every Tuesday at 7 a.m. in our Community Rose Garden to deadhead roses, drink lemonade, and foster friendships. No men are allowed as they are too distracting. Gets the job done, and we welcome and teach how to non-society helpers.

San Fernando Valley Rose Society is holding their annual potluck and auction fundraiser at the August meeting. Then, at the September meeting, the amazingly talented photographer and SFVRS member, Sherry Patton, will be discussing the best way to photograph rose gardens and roses.

Santa Clarita Valley Rose Society held garden tours in May at two members' gardens. One was at the home of Ingrid and Carlos Gonzalez in Sylmar, and the other was at the home of Suzy and Jeff Miladin in Placerita Canyon. Both gardens featured more than 100 roses. The Miladin garden featured huge specimens of southwestern native plants integrated among the roses, while the Gonzalez garden had a fountain as a focal point. Additionally, the society is publishing the second edition (revised) of "Growing Roses in the Santa Clarita Valley," a 48-page booklet written by Consulting Rosarians Kitty Belendez and Steve Jones. It will be available for sale at their 10th Anniversary rose show on October 11th.

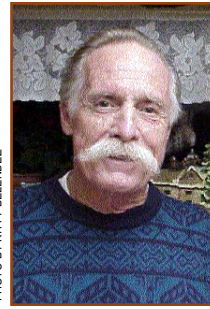


PHOTO BY KITTY BELENDEZ

A Memorial For NORM SIEFERT

Norman Bruce Siefert, 62, died of lung cancer on July 3, 2003, in Newhall, CA. He was born on August 10, 1940 in Santa Monica. He grew up in North Hollywood and resided in Newhall with his family for 31 years. He is survived by his wife of 40 years, Elissa, and three sons: Scott, Sean and Todd.

Norm always had a green thumb, and most recently he had a love of roses. He grew many beautiful roses and tended them with great care. Norm was a member of the Santa Clarita Valley Rose Society since January 1993, a member of the Los Angeles Rose Society, a member of the American Rose Society, and was a Consulting Rosarian. He was generous with his rose advice, and enjoyed promoting the benefits of becoming a member of the rose society.

Norm was employed as a roofer during his working years. His claim to fame was his Ocean Wave Roofs as well as the roof on the Krishnamurti school in Ojai. He was especially talented with wood shakes and shingles. Through the years, he had many and varied interests such as homing pigeon racing, skydiving, camping and fishing in the Eastern Sierras, and he was a CB radio enthusiast. His CB handle was "Stormin' Norman."

Norm loved his Boston Terrier dogs, Dolly and Dinky, and he was famous for his July 4th antics. Norm was an unconventional, unforgettable character with an infectious laugh, colorful language and a big heart.

Scottsdale Rose Society held their successful "Five Rose Gardens" tour on April 20th, a much enjoyed fundraiser chaired by dedicated member Rose Ann Trubisky. At tours' end, she and husband Leonard hosted the attendees to a wonderful dinner at their Paradise Valley home and expansive garden. Tour proceeds help to defray costs of our rose shows. Plans are being made for our September hands-on pruning demonstration and discussion of fall rose care.

South Coast Rose Society hosted a summer potluck on August 9th at Peggie Wormington's house. She's just finished landscaping her yard – it's beautiful. We've got our SCRS website up and running. Peggie Wormington is webmistress. We created an award to recognize members who have contributed a lot of time and energy to the society over the past year (outstanding service and contribution). We call this award the South Coast Sweethearts Award, and this year we awarded it to Gloria Leinbach and Carolyn Grayson. We would be lost without them! Gloria has been President for the last 6 years and Carolyn is the editor of our newsletter. They are at every society event and are very knowledgeable and proactive.

Thanks to the society presidents who contributed reports.

HOW I PROPAGATE ROSES

By Harold Baker

Lakeland, Florida

Let me start by stating that I am not touting that what I do is the one and only way to propagate roses. I am simply sharing with you what I do and I am happy with the results. I would also like to state that I have been involved with roses for many years and I have never heard of anyone being hassled in any way for propagating roses for their own use. If you were to start selling certain varieties is when you would get into trouble.

When someone tells me that they do certain things I always want to know why. I expect you may be the same way. Therefore, I will try to explain.

Why do I propagate roses instead of buying them at a nursery?

(a) You can tailor make a plant just the way you want it as far as the type of rootstock, height of the graft etc. and, by taking your time, you can produce a superior graft.

(b) By exchanging budwood with like-minded people around the country you can be growing new varieties before most nurseries have them available.

(c) You will find that about 14 of 15 new varieties will be inferior to the roses that you already have. You can try them out, keep the winners and discard the losers without losing a lot of money.

(d) If you search out superior specimens and use the best budeyes from these specimens you can produce a superior bush for yourself.

(e) It's a lot of fun to wait, with great expectation, to see what the new blooms look like.

Why do I use Fortuniana rootstock?

The sandy soils of Florida are teeming with Nematodes. These invade the roots of most rose rootstocks and lead to the decline of the bush. Fortuniana rootstock has superior resistance to this pest. In addition, tests have shown that roses on Fortuniana Rootstock produce more blooms and larger blooms than the same variety grown on other rootstocks.

Why do I graft instead of bud onto Fortuniana?

Because I can produce the bush much faster if I graft where I have the rose foliage producing energy, and I can start with bud eyes that have already begun to break.

Why do I make a V notch in the top of the rootstock instead of simply cutting a slit like most nurseries do?

Because this enables me to make a superior graft. Time is money in a nursery so many of them simply slit the top of the Fortuniana because it is faster. But this causes problems. The only way the point of the V cut on the stem of the scion (desirable variety) can go all the way to the bottom of the slit is if the portion of the cane on each side of the slit is broken over, crimping the cambium layer and xylem tubes. This is a problem. If the point of the V is not driven all the way to the bottom of the slit this leaves a hole. This too is a problem. Cutting the V notch in the Fortuniana to match the V point on the scion

takes a little longer but it has neither problem and produces a superior graft.

Why do I make my grafts about 8 inches above the bed when many nurseries place their grafts about 3 inches above the bed?

Part of most nursery's sales are to people in areas that have to be concerned with freezes. Therefore, they want to be able to protect the bud union. That is not a concern in my Central Florida location. Having the graft high makes everything easier. The high graft allows my Dramn system to water and liquid feed the entire surface of my rose bed without being blocked by low canes. Weeding, water wanding, spraying, feeding, mulching, and pruning are all easier.

Why do I use Dip-n-Grow, a liquid rooting compound instead of a powder?

Rooting powders lose potency with time. Since I do a limited amount of grafting, I fear that I would have to throw away much of the powder that I would buy. It is my understanding that Dip-n-Grow does not have this shelf life problem. Just to be safe I store it in my refrigerator. I am not aware of any loss of potency but, should this occur, it would be simple to change the Dip-n-Grow dilution ratio from 5 to 1 to a 3 or 4 to 1 ratio to compensate for this.

Why do I root the Fortuniana in the small tray compartments instead of larger cups or pots?

The small rootball on the Fortuniana allows me to use one hand to hold the Fortuniana and scion in the air and rotate it to wind the grafting tape onto the joint. If the Fortuniana is rooted in a cup or pot the, weight of the cup or pot makes it necessary that I set it on the table. Then I must try to wind the grafting tape around a vertical, stationary joint. This requires more dexterity and patience than I possess.

Why do I pre-root the Fortuniana instead of rooting and grafting at the same time?

It is my experience that I get essentially 100% success with my grafts. While my success rate with rooting the Fortuniana is good, it certainly is not perfect. In the wintertime I would even rate it as poor. If I graft onto unrooted Fortuniana, and the rooting does not take place, I lose the specimen even though the graft heals satisfactorily. I previously rooted and grafted at the same time to avoid having to wind the grafting tape around a stationary pre-rooted start in the cups. After Ken Muncy showed me the small compartment rooting trays, I adopted my present method which I will describe. I find it to be a better way.

Now that I have given you all this background on why I do things the way I do, let me give you a step-by-step procedure on how I do it.

EQUIPMENT USED FOR THE GRAFT

- ❖ 1"x 2" board about 2-1/2" long
- ❖ Small plastic scraper holding a replaceable single edge razor blade
- ❖ Parafilm "M" Laboratory film
- ❖ Eye dropper
- ❖ Small test tube 5/8" in diameter by 3-1/2" long that holds 15 times the volume of the eye dropper

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PROPAGATE ROSES *Continued from page 4*

- ❖ Vase to hold the test tube upright
- ❖ Dip-n-Grow rooting compound
- ❖ Small knife
- ❖ 16 oz. Styrofoam cups
- ❖ Fafard #2 Soilless Mix
- ❖ Perlite
- ❖ Labels & permanent marking pen

EQUIPMENT USED FOR THE MIST HOUSE

- ❖ 10-minute timer with pins set to mist for 6 to 12 seconds 3 times during the 10-minute interval
- ❖ A photocell or a cheap "security" timer to turn the 10-minute timer off at night
- ❖ Solenoid valve
- ❖ Flora-Mist Fogger

WHAT I DO

1. I previously grafted and rooted the Fortuniana at the same time. Now I try to root the Fortuniana ahead of time. I have plastic rooting trays that have compartments that are about 1-1/2" square by 2 inches deep. I make a mixture of 2/3 Fafard #2 and 1/3 Perlite and thoroughly soak this mixture with water before filling the compartments.

2. Cut long canes of Fortuniana that are then recut into approximately 11-inch lengths. Make sure which is the bottom end. Remember, the bud eye is always above the leaf. Use a razor blade to make a square cut on the bottom of the Fortuniana stick just below a bud eye. Use a small knife to scrape 2 strips of bark, each about 1-inch long, from opposite sides of the stem base. Then use the point of the knife to make 3 or 4 shallow slits the length of the scraped areas.

3. Dip the end of the Fortuniana for at least 6 seconds into the small test tube containing water and 3 eyedroppers full of Dip & Grow. This is to make a 5 to 1 mixture.

4. The prepared Fortuniana is inserted into the Fafard/Perlite mixture with the foliage on each stick facing in the same direction. Then, when the tray is placed in the mist house, it is placed so the foliage faces the sun. It is important for the best rooting of the Fortuniana that the mist house is in full sun.

5. Rooting of the Fortuniana takes place in about 4 weeks during the summer. In the spring and fall it takes about 6 weeks and in the winter 8 or more weeks.

6. When I get ready to graft I take a cutting from the desired variety (scion). Ideally the cane would have recently bloomed and the bud eyes would be very swollen or maybe even started to grow with a 1/4 inch or so of growth. Each cutting should contain 2 sets of healthy leaves and have at least 1 inch of stem below the bottom set of leaves. The cutting is conditioned in warm water.

7. I put an old plastic table cloth on the dining room table and do all my grafting there where I can be comfortably seated, have air conditioning, and good lighting.

8. I take the tray of rootstock out of the mist house and place it on the table. The cutting of the desired variety is held next to the various "sticks" of Fortuniana to select which stick best matches its diameter. This stick is slowly

and carefully pulled from the tray so the delicate roots are not torn off.

9. I lay the Fortuniana horizontal with the top end resting on the board. Rotate the Fortuniana until the maximum amount of foliage is pointing toward the ceiling. Use the razor blade to cut off the Fortuniana about 1 inch above the top set of leaves. Then hold the razor blade straight up and down and press straight down to make an approximately 3/4 inch deep V notch in the top of the Fortuniana leaving a small shoulder on each side of the V at the top.

10. Place the scion horizontally on the block of wood and rotate the scion so that the bottom leaf is pointing at the ceiling. Holding the razor blade straight up and down press down with the razor blade to cut a matching V point on the bottom of the scion. The sides of this cut are slightly longer than the V notch cut in the Fortuniana so a bare portion will be exposed after the two parts are joined together. Make the top of this V end just below the bottom of the bud eye in the scion.

11. Stick the two parts together with the bottom leaflet of the scion turned toward the side of the Fortuniana that has the most foliage. They should fit snugly together with the cambium layers lined up. Cut a piece of Parafilm about 1/4" by 1-1/2" and wrap the joint by rolling the 2 pieces using one hand while stretching the Parafilm tightly with your other hand. The entire joint including the exposed portion of the scion just above the Fortuniana is wrapped.

12. Prepare the Styrofoam cups ahead of time by using a pencil to punch 4 holes in the sides just above the bottom plus 1 hole in the center of the bottom. The newly grafted starts are planted in the cup using a wet mixture of 2/3 Fafard and 1/3 Perlite as before. However, now that we already have roots, a small amount of Osmocote and Superphosphate is added to this mix

13. The cup is then watered and a nametag displaying the variety name and grafting date is inserted. A trigger bottle is used to apply a mist of water above and below the foliage to keep the grafted specimens, as well as the tray of rootstock, from drying out while additional specimens are prepared.

14. The cups are set in a plastic tray that has 3-inch square compartments before being placed in the mist house. Each cup is turned so that the maximum amount of foliage is facing the sun.

15. You can see the V notch graft through the Parafilm. When it initially heals it will make a white V. The graft is not well healed at this point. Wait until the graft turns brown. By this time there should be roots visible at the holes in the Styrofoam cups and it is time to remove it from the mist house. This will take about a month depending upon the time of the year.

16. The start is potted up in a 1-gallon pot and set in the shade and watered daily. After about a week it is gradually worked out into the sun. When staking the small starts, it is important that the tie is made above the graft, because if it is only secured below the graft the top may break off in high wind.

This article is a 1999 American Rose Society Award of Merit winner. Originally published in the Bradenton-Sarasota Rose Society newsletter "The Bulletin." Reprinted with permission.

5th Annual ARS All-Mini Rose Show
June 13-16, 2003 □ Charleston, SC

REPORT FROM THE ALL-MINI ROSE SHOW

By Steve Jones

The theme of the 5th Annual All Mini Convention in Charleston, SC was "Doing The Charleston," which was a fast dance and the hot fad back in the Roaring Twenties. At this convention I think the main people who were dancing were co-chairs Bob & Sandy Lundberg of Bluffton, SC. The convention had about 190 registrants, and I don't ever recall a convention of any size going off without a hitch. Bob & Sandy and their committee people were very well organized and the hotel was exceptionally helpful to the attendees. By the way, the 190 attendees was a new record for an All Mini Convention.

The convention did do well. The only problem was when the roses on ARS Presidents Tommy Cairns' plane opted for another trip to somewhere else and did not show up until after the judging was over. Tommy was pretty lighthearted about it as there was little he could do. But for all of the other exhibitors and arrangers, the show was very good and had great quality. There were 751 entries in the horticulture section and 125 arrangements. I judged the arrangements and we had our work cut out for us.

The first night we went to different restaurants around the area. The Lundberg's and I, with close friend Barbara Schermerhorn, went to a place visited only by locals. It is on the water in a residential section. In fact, you better know where it is as there are neither signs nor the name of the place on the building. It is called "The Wreck" and the no-frills dinner was excellent, all fresh seafood that just came in on the boat. While waiting for dinner, I saw three porpoises swimming up the river channel next to the restaurant.

Afterwards we went back to the hotel to enjoy the Hospitality Room. I must say that the room was great. It was open 24/7 and it was well organized and run by Peggy Heinsohn and Priscilla Fletcher, who is the current President of the Charleston-Low Country Rose Society, the sponsors of the convention. Afterwards we were treated to a dessert bar full of cakes, pies and other sweets. One thing about the hotel and the meals, there was always plenty to eat. Some of us stayed up and others caught a few hours of sleep before entering their

roses the next morning.

The show as mentioned was very good. The winner of the Harm Saville Trophy was Harold & Jean Baker of Florida. The two special challenge classes, the Williams and Mini-Flora, were won by Ray & Julie Guillebeau and Bob & Sandy Lundberg respectively. Mini Queen was

Baby Boomer by Frank Benardella, Mini King was Arcanum by Bob & Sandy Lundberg, and Mini Princess was Carolina Lady by John & Linda Godwin. Mini Flora Queen was Tiffany Lynn by Paul & Charlotte Blankenship, Mini Flora King was Ferrin by Tom & Ilse Estridge, and Mini Flora Princess was Tiffany Lite by Mike Denson. On the arrangement side, Lee Jeramias won the Best Arrangement in the Show with an underwater design, Jim Harrell won the Ralph Moore, Susan Waites won the Gold Certificate with a great traditional mass, Marily Young won the Silver with a great modern arrangement, and

Linda Benson won the Bronze with her oriental manner arrangement. Overall, trophies were won by most of the exhibitors. It is nice to see everyone win at least one trophy and the show not be dominated by one or two people. Congrats to all of the winners!

The afternoon had great talks by Satish Prahbu on staging, Bob Martin on new minis, Paul Blankenship on growing minis his way, and Lee Jeramias and Hazel Hruby with an arrangement forum.

The awards dinner had to go down as one of the most relaxing. It was casual and featured a "Charleston Boil" dinner. It was very good. Mike Williams was honored for all of his work hybridizing minis. Many of you know he closed his nursery, Mini Rose Gardens, and now will just hybridize. On a side note, word from John Saville is that he is offering Nor'East Minis for sale. It appears that the 80-hour workweeks are finally getting to John, and the family is not interested in the nursery. Since there was no business meeting, the only noteworthy news item was the introduction of the three new Award of Excellence winners for 2004: 'Picotee' by Frank Benardella, 'Andie McDowell' by Michael Williams, and 'Salute' by Nor'East (Wendy

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PHOTO BY STEVE JONES

Bob & Sandy Lundberg, Charleston Hosts

CHARLESTON *Continued from page 6*

White). Also, Snow Bride and Little Jackie were inaugurated into the Mini Hall of Fame.

Speaking of minis, the rose named for the convention, Miss Charleston, looks like a real winner and has good exhibition potential. It is an electric medium mauve mini with great fragrance. The plant is very clean with dark glossy foliage. I had to bring one home! It was hybridized by Mike Williams.

The next day was the garden tours. By this time, the weather turned to the normal pattern of storms in the afternoon, and clear, hot and humid weather during the day. It was about 90/90. So during the tour we moved to whatever shade we could find. The first home was Fletcher Derrick which is one of the older row homes in downtown Charleston. He has a beautiful garden and with so little property, the roses on Fortuniana really grow straight up and with lots of blooms. I was impressed with the size of his Kew Rambler, even though it was not in bloom. This is a house eater. His home was built in 1650, and is still a gem today. The row homes in Charleston are two rooms wide at the street so they could build more homes and usually three stories high. They can go back in the lot for as many rooms as they have space for, usually 2 or 3. The front door is really a door to the porch or patio, so the house actually looks out over the yard, which is a great idea.

Next we went to the back-to-back homes of Julian Hayes, and Mike Denson & Doug McGill. Julian grows several roses, but is best known for his camellias, which unfortunately do not bloom this time of year. Through a path you enter the backyard of Mike Denson and Doug McGill. They grow a lot of hollyhocks, squashes, tomatoes, etc. as well as a good number of roses, all on Fortuniana. Mike is an exhibitor so most of his roses are show quality, but make great garden plants as well. A side note is that Mike would not exhibit until he had a Queen quality bloom. Well he did and won Queen with Veterans' Honor at his first show in Augusta, GA.

The last stop was at the Boone Plantation which is still a working plantation today. You enter a long lane of mature live oaks with Spanish Moss hanging from them. I am sure we have seen this lane in many movies. The first stop was the Cotton Dock where we had an excellent pig picking lunch. The whole pig and chicken were cooked over a BBQ grill and the meat was so tender you just pull



The Bakers' Harm Saville Challenge

it apart. Afterwards we had a tour of the house and gardens. In the gardens were many plantings of Bermuda "found roses" and several chinas, teas and noisettes. There were two huge specimens of *Rosa roxburghii* that were in full bloom. It was quite a sight!

It was sad to see the convention end as we all had a great time. I rode down with Bob & Sandy to their



The Boone Plantation

beautiful home in Bluffton, SC, which is just before you go over the bridge to Hilton Head Island. Their 470+ rose garden was a beacon to all that drive by and a complement to their home. The garden is arranged in octagonal rings with sectional beds. The minis are in the inner rings, the hybrid teas and floribundas in the outer rings, except for some new beds in the outermost ring, which are mostly varieties that Bob has grafted on Fortuniana. Once again, the Fortuniana plants are so much larger and had more bloom than other rootstocks. The plants were clean and very healthy. I think we found about 20 Monday Queens in the garden. About 35 people from the convention came over to marvel in the gardens. I helped out and then chased bugs for Baldo "Bugman" Villegas who couldn't make the convention. Everyone had a great time and Sandy treated everyone to lunch. I made a long list of new roses I wanted to try at home. It is amazing how a rose like Dancing Flame has so much red at home, yet is very pale in the South Carolina climate. As a judge, I appreciate learning the differences due to climate. One of the must-have roses is Bob Martin's 'Butter Cream'. It is a slightly darker version of 'Fairhope' with better petal substance. Bob had a sister seedling that was pure white. I suggested "Cream Cheese" or "Sour Cream" for a name.

Unfortunately it had to end and I flew home the next day. But it was a great convention and everyone left happy. On the Steve Scale of Conventions, this one rated a 5, based on the average hours of sleep I got during the convention. Next year the All Mini Convention will be in Fort Worth, Texas. They have their work cut out for them to out-do the Charleston convention.

Reprinted from the July/August issue of "Rose Ecstasy," bulletin of the Santa Clarita Valley Rose Society, Kitty Belendez, Editor.

A WALK IN THE PARK ...

By Jim Delahanty

The Problem: To evaluate new roses

You cannot expect rose catalogs to be better than any other commercial property or advertising copy. Deep down, no rosarian proprietor wants to sell a dog of a rose, but something deep within his soul prevents him advising the public that "... this rose is a dog, but the kids need glasses" or "buy this rose only if you want your gray house paint to match the foliage." And the pictures in magazines, slides in presentations, and the enthusiasm of early planters are not of much help either. For one thing, you know that no one opts for pictures or slides that emphasize ugly except in government sponsored art exhibits. Early planters are people who get the latest and trendiest roses before the rest of us; they tend to be exhibitors and we all know that exhibitors spray like unsprayed animals.

Solution No. 1:

So it is not a bad idea to take a walk in one of the public gardens featuring AARS roses. There are about 130 plus such gardens in the country and slightly more than a baker's dozen here in California. None, however, is in Ventura County. You can drive north to the A. C. Postel Garden in Santa Barbara or you can go south to the International Rosarium at Descanso Gardens, or the Tournament of Roses Garden in Pasadena, or the Exposition Park Rose Garden among the half dozen or so in the Southern California metroplex. Of these, the largest in Los Angeles is reputedly the Exposition Park Rose Garden.

As opposed to single cultivars or a few rose bushes linked together in the recommended triangle of three, public gardens can provide a view of beds of 50 or more as a means of evaluating roses with a reasonable degree of sanity. And the questions can be personal.

Will 'Memorial Day' provide a sufficient number of blooms without ruffled edges to reduce the risk of looking ragged in competition? Will the large blooms and heavy petal count cause the necks to sag in imitation of 'Sweet Surrender'? Will excessive heat turn the color to pink rather than mauve? How do the roses stand up to a regimen of not being sprayed with petrochemicals? Will 'Day Breaker' fade as ugly as 'Kaleidoscope'? Will the luscious scent of 'Honey Perfume' obscure the rather squat shape of the rose bush?

In order to arrive at the answers to these and other intriguing questions, I went with Kim Rupert, hybridizer, plantsman, and all around good guy, to view the roses at Exposition Park Rose Garden. The Exposition Park Rose Garden first found ideation almost a dozen years before its final completion in 1928 when some 15,793 roses

were planted at its inception through the generosity of several Los Angeles nurseries, especially those of Fred Howard. (Does anyone else wonder about the job skills of the reporter who reputedly counted those rose bushes?)

Over the years the number of roses has varied, with the current number ranging from about seven thousand (according to Huell Howser and the current Exposition Park pamphlet) or twenty thousand (a former director of the Garden in 1987), or possibly some number between sixteen and nineteen thousand (various contemporary websites). The number of different cultivars may vary from 145 to 200 depending on which source is being consulted. The sunken garden also features a central koi pond and fountain as well as four wood gazebos festooned with climbing roses and the illusion of cool in the middle of an open space.

The walkways and lawn delineate the beds, most of which are rectangular, but vary in shape and size with the approaches to the central fountain and the circular pond. Other instructive features include masses of pink hydrangeas along the southern and northern axes as well as ice cream vendors with modern pushcarts and deep freezes. The non-traditional *LA Weekly* has nominated the Exposition Park Rose Garden as the "Place to Watch the



Exposition Park

Smell of Roses" and recommends a picnic blanket and a good book as essential to the experience but only in the mornings or afternoons when tourists have departed.

The most important thing is that the roses are planted in recognizable beds of as many as fifty roses or more thus massing the roses for better contemplation and evaluation. This possibility of evaluation was the original purpose of the Garden in its function as a public display garden. Namely, the ordinary rose grower was supposed to be able to view the garden in recognizable growing conditions and decide whether or not to purchase the particular rose for private enjoyment.

On a hot day in early July when the overnight fog is still combating with somewhat late but ominous Santa Ana desert winds, one thing is clear: none of the 2004 AARS roses have any scent worth talking about. Even the two roses touted for scent — 'Honey Perfume' and 'Memorial Day' — are almost totally devoid of fragrance unless you bury your nose right into the centers of the blooms and fake it. A comparison with typically fragrant roses like 'Secret' or 'Mr. Lincoln' verifies that fragrance is just not on the menu today in this garden.

The roses at Exposition Park do not appear to be sprayed with petrochemicals—as is the case with almost all public gardens these days; this decision is either one of devotion to the principles of Integrated Pest Management, or the fear of lawsuit liability for the ills of those utilizing the garden, or the powerful arguments of

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those against the use of these toxic agents by public facilities coupled with the even more powerful threat of public picketing. However, the rose beds are meticulously weeded and mulched. In fact, the gardens are closed to the public for the first ten weeks of the calendar year for replanting and renovation of the rose beds, removal of older less well performing roses, and the introduction of new AARS roses as appropriate.

Signage—the identification of the roses in the various beds is generally effective although there are a few anomalies. Kim identifies one bed of putative ‘Sterling Silver’ as more likely to be ‘Lagerfeld,’ by virtue of height, vigor, and color. A bed of roses called ‘Eden’ is actually ‘Abraham Darby.’ However, if you want to see a mass planting of a 1979 Hybrid Tea, ‘Edwin T. Meredith,’ with coral pink flowers in an orange blend, look quickly since the rose is no longer in commerce; the same commercial unavailability is true of ‘Fireside,’ a 1977 rose that features red, yellow and white colors in imbricated petals surrounded by glossy dark foliage. An old favorite includes a 1954 HT called ‘Roundelay,’ deeply fragrant, deeply dark red, tall as a leading man, and currently only available on the open market at three boutique mail order nurseries. Some identifying signs are missing (perhaps two or three), but no more than to be expected in an exposed urban area.

The seven acres of roses are bound by Exposition Blvd., the Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County directly across Victory Walk, and State Drive. The entrance to the gardens is at 39th Street and Figueroa; parking costs six dollars. There are various restroom facilities studded about the 160 acres. It is wise to seek out those associated with buildings as those in the Rose Garden seem to be frequented by bipeds with a total inability to aim correctly through any aperture.

And the answers to the questions are: No. Yes. Yes. Yes. No. And Yes.

Solution No. 2: Find an early planter who doesn’t spray and still has the plants left.

Good luck.

And Kim thinks that Zary’s ‘Flirtatious’ is a “wow” of a scented rose.

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9:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

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For more info: (760) 346-9842, hrmccarty@earthlink.com

The registration form is online at the district web site:

<http://www.pswdistrict.org/text/calendar.html>

Rose of the Month

OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE

By Kitty Belendez

Floribunda, Pink Blend, Zary, 2000

“Our Lady of Guadalupe” is the Virgin Mary who appeared in an apparition to a poor Aztec Indian, “Quauhtlatatzin” (later given the Christian name of Juan Diego) in Mexico City in 1531. Since then an incredible list of miracles, cures and interventions are attributed to Her. Yearly, an estimated 10 million people visit her Basilica, making her Mexico City home the most popular Virgin Mary shrine in the world, and the most visited Catholic Church in the world next to the Vatican. The Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe is celebrated on December 12th.

The rose ‘Our Lady of Guadalupe’ was bred by Keith Zary and introduced by Bear Creek Gardens in

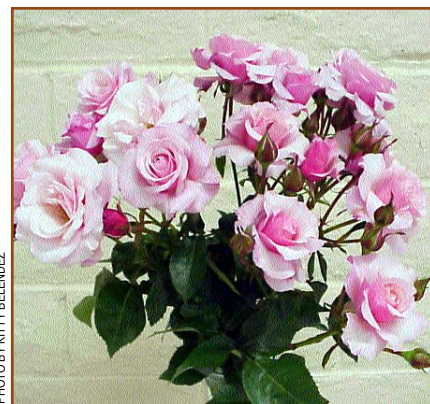


PHOTO BY KITTY BELENDEZ

Our Lady of Guadalupe

2000. This rose was developed in a partnership arrangement between the United Farm Workers Union and Jackson & Perkins. Part of the sales of this rose goes to the Hispanic College Fund.

‘Our Lady of Guadalupe’ is a very lovely floribunda with clusters of 3-inch pink-blend blooms of about 25 petals. The blooms have a mild fragrance. The foliage is semi-glossy dark green and has good disease resistance. The plant makes an excellent landscape bush of short to medium height up to 3 feet, and produces very good repeat bloom throughout the year, even in the fall when many other floribundas produce few blooms. ‘Our Lady of Guadalupe’ has also become a winning exhibition variety.

It is interesting to note that the spelling of the rose is different than the spelling of the Patroness (Guadalupe) versus the rose (Guadalupe). Initially this rose was introduced as ‘Our Lady of Guadalupe’ in 2000. The following year the name was changed to ‘Shining Hope’ which caused considerable confusion among rose exhibitors as well as the general rose growing public. Thankfully, in 2002 the name was changed back to the original ‘Our Lady of Guadalupe’.

THE GLORIOUS ROSES OF JOE WINCHEL

ROSE HYBRIDIZER EXTRAORDINAIRE

By Kathy DeRoo

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Kathy DeRoo interviewed Joe Winchel at his home in the summer of 1993. This article was originally published in the November 1993 issue of "Rose Ecstasy," bulletin of the Santa Clarita Valley Rose Society, Kitty Belendez, Editor.

Joe Winchel passed away on April 23, 2003. Joe was a member of the South Coast Rose Society. His widow, Agnes has suggested that the family would appreciate donations in his name go to the American Rose Society test garden.

"All of this was an accident," is how hybridizer Joe Winchel described the beginning of his love affair with roses. He was best known for creating roses such as the hybrid teas 'Flaming Beauty', 'Dolly Parton', 'Jean de Tilleaux', 'Dallas Gold', 'The Temptations', and 'Agnes Winchel', named for his dear wife, of course.

Joe and Agnes Winchel were married in 1956 and bought a new house in Michigan in 1957. They hired a professional landscaper who brought plans and photos of previous jobs.

They all included roses for both the front and back yards.

"Well, I don't know anything about roses, so why don't we put something else in there," was Joe's first reaction.

Fortunately, the landscaper convinced him to plant roses. Some of the varieties in his first garden were 'Talisman', 'Tropicana', 'New Dawn', 'Floradora', and 'Blossomtime'. ('Blossomtime' later gave him his very first trophy.)

While trying to find a cure for aphids, he discovered and joined the American Rose Society. The ARS promptly sent a Consulting Rosarian to his house to help him eradicate the pests.

Three years later, he joined a local rose society, and that fall he was given a rose hip with instructions on how to grow seedlings. He put the seeds in some wet sphagnum moss in a baby food jar, then put it in the refrigerator and forgot about it. When he remembered to check the jar, he found 3 seedlings had sprouted.

Soon, he discovered he could grow seedlings in the basement under lights, and was growing 2000 plants there until they could be moved outside in May. This system produced 'Flaming Beauty' and 'Dolly Parton'.

In fact, one frosty February when snow blanketed the landscape, Joe was preparing to host the board meeting

for the Detroit Rose Society. A bit of impishness took him down to his blooming basement, as he relates: "I picked a bowlful of rose petals and put them in the refrigerator. When Agnes served refreshments, she gave me this bowl of rose petals. I put some salad dressing on it, and it tasted pretty good!"

In 1975, Joe and Agnes moved to Shreveport, Louisiana, where they found the weather hot and humid. When they came to California for the National Convention in June 1978, they fell in love with the mild climate. They went home, packed up the roses, and made the move to their home in Harbor City, California.

The house was on a modest corner lot, where Joe used every available space for roses. Each area had a purpose: he planted all his seeds and raised the seedlings in the front yard, put grafted plants and cuttings in a section of the backyard, grew rootstock along the far side of the house, and parent plants for hybridizing were in the backyard, side yard, parkways, and up the side of the neighbor's property. These plants produced 40,000 seeds per year!

Joe shared some of his techniques for successful hybridizing:

1. Wait until AFTER the first spring bloom to begin hybridizing – plants will be much more productive.

2. He combined the pollen of many varieties, "screening" it (i.e., through a fine mesh sieve) into a baby food jar. The pollen, covered, lasts up to 4 weeks in the refrigerator.

3. The pollen is applied to a prepared bloom (emasculated and "defrocked") with a camel hair or ox hair brush (synthetics don't carry the pollen as well). Joe didn't label the pollen or hips with parentage.

4. The sepals are NOT removed until after the hips are harvested, as they are there to protect the developing hips from the hot sun.

5. He continued to hybridize through to the end of August – these last hips will be collected in December, at planting time.

6. Hips are harvested when the STEMS begin to turn yellow or brown, for full maturity.

7. A blender is half-filled with water, hips (sepals and stems removed) are added to about an inch from the top, and the blender is turned on at medium to medium-high speed. The pulp is then sieved away (any seeds chewed up are not viable).

8. Joe never worried about the "float test." In Michigan, where July 4th is considered the end of pollination season, he had pollinated 'Lady X' in August. "I took the hips and shelled the seed; I gave them the water test as I always did then, and every seed floated. Well, I planted them anyway, just to check and see. Almost every one of them grew, five were good enough to bud, and



Joe and Agnes Winchel at their Harbor City, CA home in 1993 (Agnes is holding her namesake rose)

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'Dorothy Anne' was one of those."

9. After the seeds were drained but still damp, Joe added one heaping tablespoon of *Captan* per gallon of seed before packing it into 1 to 1-1/2 quart plastic containers to be stored in the refrigerator until planting time in December. (He didn't necessarily consider this to be stratification, but simply maintaining viability.)

10. During October and November he removed the previous year's seedlings which didn't make the grade, and fumigated the soil with *Vapam*, covering it with plastic for 3 days. When the plastic came off, he cultivated the soil with a rake, letting it "breathe" according to directions.

11. In December, he cast the seed over the soil and covered with 3/4 inch of *Fison #3* For Seeds (available at McConkey's in Garden Grove). *Fison* is good for seeds that are difficult to germinate. It contains a wetting agent so it can be used dry and sprinkled with water after it is on the ground.

12. Seedlings were given up to a year to perform; the most promising are budded onto rootstock (he preferred the "069" – it doesn't mildew and is nearly thornless).

13. When budding, Winchel chose a stem (still on the growing rootstock plant) of about pencil thickness and grafted the bud between two leaves. Then, immediately taking his cutting from the bush, cut the stem to keep two leaves above the graft and one leaf below it; this lower leaf and its bud eye were removed before rooting the cutting.

14. To root cuttings, Joe had a technique that put his mist propagator out of business: He removed a plug of earth from his planting ground with a circular bulb planting tool, mixed half of this soil with *Redi-Earth* potting soil (available at Orange County Farm Supply, and also McConkey's) and refilled the planting hole. He made a hole with a pencil for the cutting, dipped the cutting in *Rootone* before planting it, and slowly watered it in with a watering can, careful not to wet the graft itself. Using a large opaque white "vitamin jar", he covered the cutting, twisting the jar into the soil a bit, "so it won't go nowhere." These were in direct sunlight but Joe said, "It's amazing how they don't get hot. So far, it's the most successful way of rooting that I've ever tried." He watered daily for 5 minutes right over the jars to keep the soil moist, and in about 4 weeks he removed the jars – no hardening off! Once the bud eye showed good growth, the top stem of the rootstock was cut completely away.

When evaluating a new seedling, Joe looked for exhibition form first: "People in rose societies, people who grow a lot of roses, want form. It's got to have something unusual if it doesn't have form. And I like fragrance, but it's hard to get."

Also, he pointed out that the petals should be as wide as they are long, and be broad at the base. If they are too thin, the bloom will open too fast and drop its petals.

If a rose had been grafted but was not quite up to snuff, it was removed and (usually) given away. But Joe would still watch its progress in a neighbor's yard: "I've got some on the market that I had given to the neighbors. I decided a year or two later that they were too good to throw away, so I sent them to the growers and one of them even got into the AARS trials! (It didn't win, but not many of them do.)"

One of Winchel's roses is 'Lynn Anderson', the pink and white hybrid tea that won the Silver Certificate at the ARS Test Gardens, the top award for 1993. Once known as "Omigod" because of its extremely tall growth habit, 'Lynn Anderson' was registered in time to be shown at the National Convention in San Diego in June 1994. Joe

Winchel had already trophied with it in the "unregistered seedling" class at previous shows.

He advised, "If you want to exhibit 'Lynn Anderson', the best way is not to let it get over 4 feet tall. I got 2-1/2 (5 gallon) bags of hips from 3 plants, so that is the reason I grow it as a climber."

One of Joe's favorites was the orange-red 'Ain't She Sweet', which was introduced in 1994 by Weeks. It is a good mother plant, has better form than its pollen parent, 'Dolly Parton', and a slightly different (but as much) fragrance. And it is fairly disease resistant.

'Donna Darlin', previously nicknamed "Wow!," was another stunning new introduction for 1994. Joe described it as "white and yellow with some dark pink or almost red, depending on the weather." As it ages, it gets a little black line around the outside edges of the petals (he almost named it "Eyeliner"). Coiner introduced this one. 'Louise Estes' is an exhibition rose, pink with white reverse having very good form and foliage, which was introduced around the same time.

'Pearl' is an exquisite, creamy white hybrid tea that came up with the previous year's seedlings and was on its way to the Test Gardens. Usually, the introducers like to name the roses, but Joe was firm on naming this one "after my mother, my sister, and my niece." The name, as well as the honor, certainly suits this rose.

These are just a sampling, of course. Joe had many other roses which hadn't even been named yet! He had 33 different varieties submitted to the AARS Trial Gardens that year.

When asked about his goals for the future, this octogenarian responded, "I'll hybridize 'til I'm 102 and by then, hopefully, I'll have an AARS Award winner. And Agnes, she's going to live forever, so SHE can spend the royalties on that one!"

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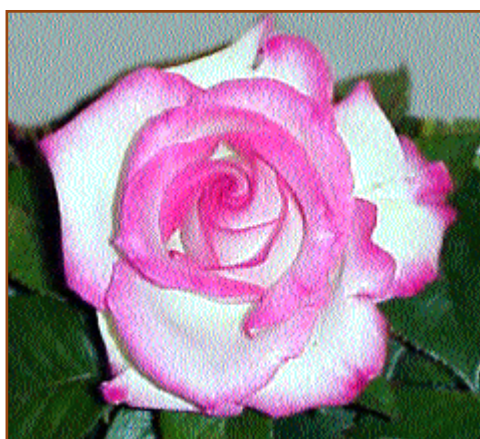


PHOTO BY KITTY BELENDEZ

'Lynn Anderson'

MAGIC ELIXIRS:

ALFALFA, EPSOM SALTS, SEAWEED & OTHER GOOD STUFF

By Kitty Belendez

Santa Clarita, CA

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ALFALFA

I remember when I first became a member of the American Rose Society 18 years ago, long before the Santa Clarita Valley Rose Society was even a glint in the imagination of our eyes. I was fascinated with an article written by Howard Walters, "The Rambling Rosarian," where he extolled the virtues of "alfalfa tea."

Howard said to buy a sack of alfalfa pellets and let a handful steep in a bucket of water for a couple of weeks. Then we were to splash some around all of our roses, and he said that it would work wonders. Hey, it sounded easy enough, so I tried it.

Two weeks later, my cat Tigger was howling on the side of the house. I ran out to see if he had some animal cornered or something. I smelled a foul odor and figured the poor critter must be dead already. Or, was it a skunk? But, Tigger was only howling at the little bucket of alfalfa tea that I was brewing. Pweweeey! Boy, did that stuff stink to high heaven. Good grief, if this is how the stuff smelled, I wasn't so sure I should put it on my roses. I wondered how it would affect their fragrance. Well, I had to dump this nasty stuff somewhere, and it sure wasn't going down the gutter, because I was afraid of being arrested for dumping toxic wastes. So I applied about a cup to all of my roses (thankfully I didn't have very many roses at the time), and watered it in well. The next day, I couldn't smell a thing, because the alfalfa tea had been washed deep into the soil. My roses grew extremely well that year, and I have been using alfalfa ever since.

I don't make alfalfa tea anymore. It makes my nose hairs stand on end. Instead, I just apply a handful of the pellets around each bush and water them in thoroughly. We do this about 3 times a year. The pellets are almost odorless. In just a few days the pellets dissolve and the earthworms come up from the depths of the earth to eat them, thereby tilling the soil. We buy a 50# sack of horse pellets from Fox Feed store in Canyon Country. It costs \$7.50. They now have a smaller 1/4-inch pellet without molasses. We try to get the kind without molasses and grains, but that isn't always possible. One year I tried

alfalfa meal, but I didn't like how the fine powder of the meal got up my nose and made me sneeze. I find the pellets are much easier to apply around the rose bushes without flying about in the air on a breezy day.

Alfalfa is an important feed for horses, cows and other animals. Why is alfalfa good for roses? Because alfalfa (*Medicago sativa*, also known as lucerne) is rich in protein, vitamins, and minerals, and it has the ability to fix nitrogen, improve soil structure and tilth. Alfalfa contains triacontanol, which is a growth stimulant, and it is said to produce higher yields. Farmers grow alfalfa in their crop rotations and then plow it under to make the soil more fertile. If it's good enough for farmers to grow crops, it must be good for our roses. But, use it in moderation. Do not apply it as a heavy mulch. You only need to use a handful around each large rose bush (less for minis) three times a year.

EPSOM SALTS

It wasn't long after I started using alfalfa that I heard about the benefits of using Epsom salts on the roses. Now, this sounded really silly, and I felt even sillier going to the drug store to buy several boxes of Epsom salts for my roses. Epsom salts is used not only for soaking the feet, but also medicinally as a purgative, or laxative. To save myself embarrassment, I told the clerk it was to soak my sore body after digging holes for all my new roses.

Epsom salts was originally named for the mineral springs of Epsom, England, although now Epsom salts are commercially produced. Epsom salts is not a "salt," it is magnesium sulfate. There is a trace amount found in our local water supply, but because of our alkaline soil in Southern California, an extra dose of Epsom salts helps to neutralize it, which makes the roses grow more lush. I apply one tablespoon of Epsom Salts around each rose bush once a month. You can sprinkle it dry around each bush and then water it in, or you can mix it with other soluble fertilizers, dissolved in water, and feed it to your roses all at one time. I now buy it in 50# bags from Orange County Farm Supply, for about \$21. You can also get it from Western Farm Supply in Fillmore for about \$17.50, but they are only open on weekdays. I've seen Epsom salts on the Internet being sold for as much as \$60 for 50 lbs., and at the drugstore it is priced at \$3 for a four lb. box.

SEAWEED

Seaweed (or kelp) is available in many forms. I buy a 50# bag from Fox Feed for about \$29. I apply about 1/4 cup of kelp meal around each large rose bush several times a year. I also use two forms of liquid kelp. One is a clarified version under the brand name of *Response*. This product can only be obtained via mail order.

Continued on page 13



Merlin the Magician

Magic Elixirs *Continued from page 12*

www.rosemania.com sells it for \$18.95 per quart, which includes shipping. *Response* is added to my pesticide spray solution on a weekly basis. I use half as much as recommended as I feel that it has a tendency to make the foliage too large if using the higher dosage. It does make very lush, green foliage. I have never noticed any spray burn from using *Response*. The other liquid version of kelp I use is a seaweed extract made by *Grow More*, which I buy from Orange Country Farm Supply. A one-gallon bottle is \$17, and 2.5 gallons is \$28. Because the *Grow More* product is brown and not clarified, you should apply it to the rose roots and not as a foliar feed, because it will discolor the blooms.

SUPERTHRIVE

If you've ever seen the label on this weird product, you'll think it was made by a witch doctor, or a medicine doctor during the wild west days. There are so many claims on the label that you can't even figure out what is in it. I've been using it for about ten years, and even though I can't tell you what's in it, I swear it makes my roses grow big and strong. Some say that the product may contain seaweed extract, vitamin B1, and other mysterious hormones. It's extremely expensive at \$128 per gallon. But a little goes a long, long way. I only use about two tablespoons in a 50-gallon barrel of water (one drop per gallon), and I add it to the liquid fertilizer about twice a month, so a one-gallon bottle lasts me about four years.

CHELATED IRON

I'll finish this article by mentioning chelated iron. Roses need iron, and the chelated iron is best. Granular *Ironite* is not as good because it takes too long to release. Also, the granules of *Ironite* tend to get all over the cement and causes stains. The chelated iron is powdered, which you mix in with the liquid fertilizers. It gets to the plants quickly and greens up the foliage in about a week. I use it once a month, especially during the peak growing seasons when we are giving the roses a lot of water, which leaches out the soil. I always make sure to apply the iron chelate about 2 weeks before a major rose show to ensure the greenest foliage. You can buy 5 lb. bags of chelated iron at either Western Farm Service in Fillmore (*Sprint 330* at \$36), or at Orange County Farm Supply (*Grow More* at \$26).

These elixirs must be used in combination with a regular fertilizer schedule for best results. I do use all of the above products on a regular basis, and my roses are big, strong, lush and full of beautiful blooms.

This article is an American Rose Society Award of Merit winner. Reprinted from the March 2002 issue of "Rose Ecstasy," bulletin of the Santa Clarita Valley Rose Society, Kitty Belendez, Editor.



PHOTO BY KITTY BELENDEZ

In Memoriam COE APPLGATE

By Tommy Cairns

The East County Rose Society and the American Rose Society has lost one of its greatest supporters and friends. From the first day I met Coe and Rita Applegate, some 20 years ago, I instantly recognized Coe as a man of integrity with a deep respect for values and lasting friendships. There is no one who has not been touched by his gentle manner and kind words as he traveled life with roses uppermost in his private life. Giving volunteer service was second nature to this gentleman rose grower, never failing to offer whatever help he could under whatever circumstances. His service to local rose societies, whether it be as President, Board Member or just a pair of helping hands was given freely without the expectation of recognition. For Coe Applegate the act of volunteer service was seemingly reward enough – a rare attribute within modern mankind.

To borrow a saying from Will Rogers, Coe never met a man he didn't like and I know from my own personal experiences I don't know of a man or woman who didn't respect Coe Applegate. His life and irrefutable respect for others was his hallmark – a rosarian dedicated to one great hobby and its enjoyment, that of course is roses! His search for knowledge in how to grow prize winning roses was passionate dominated by his cross examination of me as I tried to explain the latest chemical or feeding program. I am pleased to report that some morsels of wisdom must have been picked up successfully for he, along with Rita, were constant winners at rose shows. But it was not this thirst for knowledge that drove his passion to victory, for it was his own desire to win and be proud of his achievements. And he had just cause to celebrate constantly.

In May 2002, he and Rita won the much coveted silver punch bowl for Queen of Show at the Rose Hills Mothers Day Rose Show. They had won many other top honors but this one was the granddaddy of all. For almost 20 years he had admired this traditional trophy. Now at long last he and Rita had won it! What an incredible lift he got from winning this trophy. And then that very evening at the Pacific Southwest District Convention he and Rita received the highest honor of all, the "ARS Silver Honor Medal". That day will always be remembered as "Applegates Silver Day." In retrospect, how wonderful it was for Coe to experience the delights of recognition with a double header and that it happened when he could enjoy the thrill of accomplishment. Having served a full and wonderful life in roses, the zenith of achievement has not escaped him.

No obituary can do full justice to a man of this caliber, for his character and achievements are extensive indeed – a quiet man with a soul devoted to family and roses. He will be remembered for expounding on his favorite subjects – new exhibition roses, gophers, 'Missy' his cat, and the latest chemicals for mildew. His compassion and concern for his friends was legendary – always there, always helping, always encouraging, always positive, always being just Coe Applegate!

We are all left with memories of a great rosarian and true friend, a sincere character often truthful in criticism but more often freely with praise, a kindness I was privileged to enjoy for the past 20 years. Quoting from Robert Burns, the great Scottish poet "A man's a man for all that!" Life will not be quite the same without Coe. A great man will no longer frequent our daily lives. On behalf of the American Rose Society I offer my affectionate sympathy to his wife, Rita, and daughter, Denise, who must contend and continue life without Coe, a loving husband and a devoted father.

The Rose Society of Tucson Hosts an ARS Consulting Rosarian School & Seminar

Saturday, October 11, 2003
8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

The Reid Park DoubleTree Hotel
445 S. Alvernon Way, Tucson, AZ 85711 — (520) 881-4200

Hotel Reservations: The DoubleTree Hotel has set aside a block of 10 rooms available to CR Seminar attendees at a special rate of \$89 per night, double or single. **Reservations must be made no later than September 10, 2003 to receive this special rate.** Otherwise, the room rate is \$139 per night.

Directions from Interstate 10: Take the Congress Street/Broadway exit and proceed east. Congress becomes Broadway Blvd. downtown. Proceed east on Broadway Blvd. just under 4 miles to Alvernon Way. Take a right (south) onto Alvernon Way. The DoubleTree Hotel is on the east side of Alvernon, across the street from Raldolph Golf Course.

Schedule

8:00 – 8:30 a.m. **Continental Breakfast.** Please sign in and pick up your badge and seminar packet.
8:30 – 8:40 a.m. **Welcome & Introduction** – *Liz Strong and Lou Pavlovich*
8:40 – 8:50 a.m. **The ARS Consulting Rosarian Program & Mission** – *Bob Martin, Outgoing Pacific Southwest District Consulting Rosarian Chairman*
8:50 – 9:35 a.m. **Soils, Mulching and Amendments**
9:35 – 10:15 a.m. **Fertilizing and Feeding**
10:15 – 10:30 a.m. **Break**
10:30 – 11:15 a.m. **Watering Systems**
11:15 – Noon **Rose Selection, Planting and Landscaping**
Noon – 1:00 p.m. **Lunch**
1:00 – 1:40 p.m. **Spraying, Chemicals and Safety**
1:40 – 2:30 p.m. **Bugs, Pests and Natural Predators**
2:30 – 3:00 p.m. **Questions and Answers, Review of Key Points** – *Bob Martin*
3:00 – 4:00 p.m. **Consulting Rosarian Open Book Test** – *Bob Martin*
(The test is optional – Those wishing to become CR's must take the test.)

DEADLINE FOR CR SEMINAR REGISTRATION IS OCTOBER 4, 2003

\$30 per person, includes Seminar, Continental Breakfast and Lunch

Mail the lower portion of this form and a check payable to the Rose Society of Tucson to: Liz Strong, 441 E. Wine Plum Drive, Tucson, AZ 85704. For more information call Liz at (520) 797-7890 or e-mail to Lizzie1@mindspring.com.

Name(s) _____ Phone _____ E-Mail _____
Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Number of Persons _____ Amount Enclosed \$ _____ Your Local Rose Society? _____

Would you like to take the CR test and become a Consulting Rosarian? Yes No I'm already a CR
If yes, please contact Bob Martin for eligibility requirements and an application: PetRose@aol.com or (480) 558-3224.

COST OF TEST IS ADDITIONAL: Enclose a separate check in the amount of \$10.00, payable to ARS, together with your CR application. To study for the test (which is advised), CR Manuals may be purchased directly from the ARS for \$10, or \$15 with a 3-ring binder. To order call (800) 637-6534 or purchase on-line at ars.org.



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NOTICE

This list is only as accurate as the information provided to us. Please notify the editor when you have any changes in your rose society info.



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