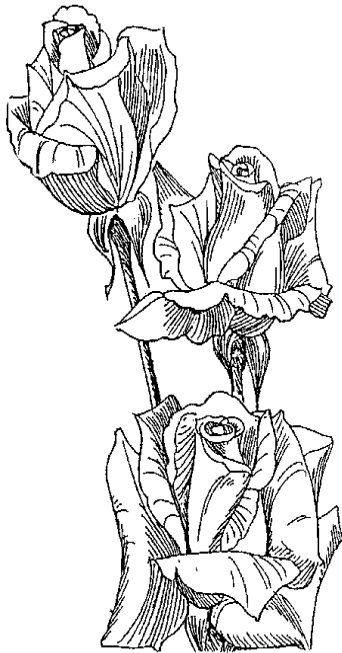


The Rose Vine

July 2008
Volume 42, Issue 3

Penn-Jersey District of the American Rose Society's quarterly newsletter

What price "carefree?"



Rusty '83

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Each spring I have a few spots in the rosebeds that need filling and rely on the local nurseries to supply roses that I hadn't considered while filling out online orders or ones that simply catch my eye while I wander through the pots at the nurseries in April. This year was not a good one for my annual activity. The first "reliable" nursery which had, in past years, an interesting collection of Week's, was the first disappointment. This year they had a small collection of *Knock Out* and *Flower Carpet* roses set off to the side. The area allotted to the roses was about half of what it was in past years. When I inquired about what they would have on hand later in the season, they replied that "that is all we are bringing in this year, That is what the public is buying."

The next nursery on my list was about 2 miles up the road and had an advertisement in the Saturday morning paper featuring "over 100 varieties of roses". Yippee! Head up the road, pull into the parking lot and there, on both sides of the main entrance, pots and pots of roses. And as I get near, disappointment sets in. Lotsa pots, 3 varieties of *Flower Carpet* and 4 of

Knock Out. Sheesh!. But around the corner, where the roses normally are, there are more pots. Here I find 2 pots of *Double Delight*, 1 of *Secret*, 15 of *Intrigue*, 5 of *Blaze Improved* (I want to see *Blaze* – just *Blaze* - never have and probably never will) and 1 *Mardi Gras*. I wanted a *Mardi Gras* and figured I would get it at a nursery. I eagerly reached for the tag and saw the sticker - \$30.00! \$30.00 – was this like the only plant of this variety in existence? Oh well – no thankee! The rest of the HT's were \$27.00! Their "over 100 varieties" turned out to be "over 100 pots!"

And the process repeated itself this way through 4 more nurseries. The large number of *Intrigue* at the one nursery was not a fluke – a large number of pots of this variety was found in 2 more nurseries. Some commercial operation overplanted *Intrigue* about 2 years ago and we now see the results. The last nursery on the list was an old reliable. But alas, they only brought in 4 of each variety and were having trouble selling the mostly out-of-patent hybrid teas and floribundas they had on hand. So next year, they said – only *Knock Out*! I can't blame the

nurserymen – they have to make a living and sell what the public wants. But do we want a landscape where, yes, they are growing roses, but they are all *Knock Outs*? I don't think so. I remember as a kid when the suburban malls starting springing up and all around the huge parking lots and medians there were tall (taller than me at the time) Cannas. Bright red-orange.

President, I think, was the variety. To this day I hate Cannas because I got so tired of seeing row after row of these Cannas in all the public landscapes. I am starting to get the same feeling about *Knock Out*.

Come into my garden and see the diversity of roses. There is the promise of even greater diversity in the future. The one good point about global

warming is that we might be able to grow more tender roses here. My teas did quite well this winter. I had 16" canes to work with this spring which is a minor miracle! I know there will still be some harsh winters to come, but I'm an optimist. *Banksia* in Reading PA!

Kevin

From the District Director's Desk

It's the middle of Summer, but Penn Jersey is looking forward to Fall, the District Convention hosted by York Rose Society, our Fall Rose Shows, and the lovely colors of autumn roses. Information and registration forms for the Convention appear in this issue of the RoseVine. York is planning a fun convention – I hope to see many of you there, with your roses and designs. The fall Convention is also the time when the District presents the Outstanding Consulting Rosarian and Outstanding Judge Awards, and the ARS Silver Honor Medal.

Penn Jersey will offer the Rosedale Bowl, one of the traveling ARS National Trophies, this year at the District Convention. The class is open to all ARS members. Originally the trophy called for five correctly named hybrid teas, each a different variety. However, the donors wanted the class to attract exhibitors and the entry has been modified on occasion to include roses other than hybrid teas. Penn Jersey is still working on the exact class description, so check the schedule on the York Area Rose Society's website periodically for details. We welcome exhibitors from all our neighboring districts. The Rosedale Bowl was last in Penn Jersey in 1990 when it was won by John and Rita Bayler of Jonestown. Prior to that, Linc Atkiss won the trophy in 1972.

At the Spring National ARS Convention in Denver last month, the Board of Directors, acknowledging that financial concerns are still a major issue for the organization, appointed a new committee to investigate possible fund raising

projects. The Board also approved email distribution of the four quarterly bulletins (Exhibitors' Forum, Rose Arrangers Bulletin, ORG and Shrub Journal, Mini/MiniFlora Bulletin). A significant savings will be realized by not printing paper copies of these periodicals. The email version is in full color and will be available on a more reliable schedule. Anyone who does not have computer access can get a copy printed by someone in their local society. Please call me directly if you need help securing these publications (610 692-5631) Elsewhere in this RoseVine, District Horticulture Judges Chairman Bruce Monroe will talk about changes in judging Challenge Classes approved by the Board.

The ARS Board also approved the new Penn Jersey District By Laws with a minor revision relating to wording left-over from the days when we had non-rose societies associated with the District. The new By Laws, as approved, will be posted on the District website and available at the Convention.

Next year the ARS will install Jeff Wycoff of Seattle as its new President and elect a new Vice President. Penn Jersey hopes to have the candidates attend the Winter Rose Getaway so that our members have the opportunity to talk to them prior to the elections. Penn Jersey also has to elect a new District Director next year. I am completing my second term and am not eligible to run again. Pennsylvania is also part of the ARS Region I. New Jersey is part of ARS Region 0. Both Regions must also elect new Directors next year. *Elaine*

There is something special a'brewing in September.

To be specific, it is the **Penn-Jersey Fall District Show and Convention**. Save the dates from **Friday, September 19 thru Sunday, September 21st**.

How does the idea of spending a weekend with friends, talking about, looking at and generally enjoying the best roses on the eastern seaboard get you? GREAT you say. We think so too. That is why The York Area Rose Society has chosen the theme for this year's convention to be just that:

“FRIENDS AND ROSES

We have planned something for everyone. On Friday afternoon there will be a **Judges' seminar** from 1 p.m. until 5:15 p.m. The program is going to be on all of the recent changes in the Judges' Guidelines with a special emphasis on the judging of collections. *Bruce Monroe*, as always, will have a well thought out program with plenty of time for discussion. Now, some may think that this program is not for them, not so. If you are a judge and even though you do not need to attend a seminar this year, the program is well worth an early renewal. For those who are not judges, this program is equally valuable to you. I have always said that if you want to know how something is to be judged, come to a school and see what the judges are taught. It will make you a better exhibitor and may even encourage you to realize that you too could maybe be a judge. Hmmm...

Friday night we are having one of the two fabulous buffet dinners scheduled. The highlight will be the District Award Presentations. The Hospitality Suite will be open for evening discussions and hanging out.

And now onto the Show. The big event for Saturday. As we said, the theme is **Friends and Roses**. As many of you know, last year we solicited from every society in the district, a nomination of someone, something or some event that was special to your society. Each one of those recommendations has been used to create the Arrangement Schedule of the Show. Come see what your fellow rosarians do in

their interpretive tributes to the Penn Jersey District and its' members. The full show schedule will be posted on the website by the time you read this.

As soon as entries for the show close, we will be setting up an area for the entries of a ***special horticulture class/exhibit***. This class is open to any individual, group of individuals or societies. There is no limit to the number of the entries by an individual, group or society. The specifics of the class are: a stool (foot, bar, bench, milk crate, step stool, step ladder) on which is to be exhibited **at least three mini/miniflora horticulture exhibits**. If you have a small stool, maybe only a few exhibits will fit; if a step stool, you might have ten exhibits. You're saying "What?" No you got it. Maybe you'll have a spray, and /or stages and /or an open bloom, or maybe a single bloom, or single specimen or floater or mini English box. In any event, as many hort exhibits that you can artfully display on a stool or standing device will be the entry. The voting will be done by monetary donations all through the day and the winner announced at the evening banquet.

The name of this class is **HORT ON A STOOL** and, of course, this is YARS way to have a special fun memory class for our ***Betty Jolly*** who was famous for two things: her passion for minis and her need for a stool to stand on to be able to judge the HT's. All the money collected from all of the entrees will be sent to the ARS in a memorial tribute to Betty.

In the late morning during the judging of the show, *Ken Bormann* will be heading up a lively program. Now there is a program not to miss. There will then be a break to get lunch before the Show opens. After checking out all your blue ribbons at the show, you will be able to change the pace with two more great programs. In the mid-afternoon, *Terri Johns* will be showing her winning ways with drying roses and *Gus Banks* will be doing a program for the Consulting Rosarian Program.

For those who want to see what's going on at the Hershey Rose Gardens and ARS Test Gardens, they are just minutes away from the hotel. Speaking of the hotel, it is the same wonderful site that YARS used for the Mini National Convention two years ago. It is now called the Sheraton-Harrisburg Hershey and is located across the street from last year's district convention site. Reservation Information is included in this newsletter and on the YARS website.

Fr. Gervase will be saying Mass at 5 PM in the hospitality room. At 6 the social hour will start followed by another great Taste of

Pennsylvania buffet dinner and the awarding of the Show awards. *Ken Bormann* will again be featured as our banquet speaker. The talking and visiting won't end then because we will all end up again in the hospitality room.

On Sunday, *Elaine Adler* will be presiding over our annual District Meeting. At the conclusion, no matter which way is your direction home, there will be gardens to visit: North, South, East or West., we will provide one more garden and rosey experience for you. You can make the grand tour of all or just hit the ones in your direction. So, as the last rose of summer is visited (Monday, September 22nd is the first day of Fall), we expect that you will have had one of those great, fun and relaxing weekends that will linger long in your memory. Come join us and experience the best there is: a weekend of **FRIENDS AND ROSES** ala the York Area Rose Society, "See ya on the 19th."

Nancy Redington, YARS President.

Attention Attention Attention

HORTICULTURE JUDGING SYMPOSIUM ADDED TO THE DISTRICT CONVENTION

At the Denver meeting of the American Rose Society, the Board of Directors approved a major revision of Chapter XIV of the Guidelines for Judging Roses, "Judging Challenge Classes and Collections." To discuss the new guidelines and other topics of current interest, a Horticulture Judging Symposium has been added to this fall's district convention.

The symposium will be held from 1:00 PM to 5:15 PM on Friday, September 19, 2008. Attendance at the symposium will satisfy the audit requirement for horticultural judges. The next complete judging school will be held next year at the 2009 district convention. For further information, please contact Bruce Monroe, 302-478-5733, professor@katiegirl.net.

You can download a power point presentation on the changes by going to : <http://www.ars.org/Judges/JudgingChallengeClasses.pdf>. You can also download a copy of the new guidelines by going to: <http://www.ars.org/Judges>

Judging and Grooming Old Garden Roses for the show

Ed's note: I asked famed hort judge Giggles to give a summary of her approach to judging the Old Garden Rose sections at shows. After her article, I weigh in with some tips and pointers on prepping Old Garden Roses for the show.

Dear Zeek:

So ya wanna know how in the heck we can judge old garden roses, HUH?

Easily . . . you hit the tables and if the petals stay on, it's a blue ribbon winner.,

Honest . . . that is what I was jokingly told when I first started judging many years ago. In fact, I was told that most judges disliked judging Old Garden Rose (OGR) sections because they didn't know what to consider when judging. One of the reasons for this difficulty is because many judges don't grow them. And they don't grow them sometimes because of the plant's size and lack of repeat bloom. (They think.) The size can make it difficult for a small garden but there are small varieties that take up as much room as a large mini. The best being a small shrub 3 by 3 feet covered most of the season with miniature double pink blooms. Its name is *Pompom de Paris*.

Back to the question of judging.

Looking at the bloom, the biggest difference between a HT and OGR is the profile and presentation. *HTs look up, OGRs smile at you.* When evaluating the form of a HT, etc. we consider the profile – hoping that it reaches the ideal of a triangle with the outer petals forming the base and the rose center being able to reach the apex of the triangle. It is a pretty picture and pleasing to the eye. A rare OGR will give this profile, usually the bloom has a very flat profile and that is just fine. In presentation, most OGRs have a gentle bend at the neck (the peduncle) below the bloom and the evaluator is looking straight into the center of the bloom. Too much of a weak neck (bloom drooping downward) is not the ideal. And the weak or strong neck is actually the strength of the peduncle holding up the weight of the bloom at exhibition stage. That is the next difference. For HT etc., we say that the petals should be unfurling from a high pointed center in even concentric spiral, being

between one half and two thirds open. In OGRs there are significant differences. The petals unfold as if you were looking at the palm of your closed hand and then unflexed your fingers to a fully open hand. And as you stretch open your hand further, your fingers will actually reach beyond the flat and curve back to the back of your hand. OGR petals do not unwind as HTs are required to do, they unflex. The bloom is almost completely open to be at its exhibition stage. The best OGR will demonstrate a somewhat organized, symmetrical arrangement of petals reflexing back from the center. But the style and arrangement of these petals can be quartering (looking like there are four distinct sections each reflecting the structure of the other) or a uniform petal arrangement like a chrysanthemum. The center may have its stamens covered or open to be viewed. Getting some books like *The American Rose Society Encyclopedia Of Roses* can go a long way in providing good visual examples of the proper form of a particular OGR.

Ah ha, I mentioned stamens. In HTs etc., you will rarely see the stamens in an exhibition stage bloom. In OGRs, they are frequently seen. And should they be fresh, perky, standing upright or weak and crumbling, or stuck together in kind of an immature mass? You're right. They are to be perky and standing upright. Hint. Lots of loose pollen in the center of the bloom is usually a housekeeping problem that shows up when the bloom has more age than you would want for peak form.

Stem and foliage: Needless to say it should be clean from insects and spray damage.

The foliage should frame the bloom to present a pleasing view. And the stem should try to be in proportion needed for the size of the bloom.

Here comes the goodie. You say that the OGRs don't have long stems to make a nice presentation. You are right, sometimes. That's why you are permitted to have a stem on stem (this blooms stem and some of the lateral from last year's growth) to give you the length that enhances the bloom when you exhibit them. Stem on Stem is permissible for OGRs, shrubs and species entries.

You don't have to disbud the bloom either. A nice side bud tucked under the bloom even if it bends the horizontal plane of the petals can be charming. A bud, 3 inches out from the perimeter of the petals can be stupid looking. The exhibitor needs to look and see if any side buds take away from the view of the bloom or enhance it. The overall appearance of the specimen should still give the distinct picture of a circular outline of the outmost petals.

The color of the bloom should be bright, clear, clean and typical of the variety. One should ascertain if the darkened edges of the petals are due to aging (color migration and concentration due to water content) or is it typical of the variety. Are the petals turgid and fresh or crinkled and losing substance? Look at the back side of the bloom. Is it too far reflexed and past prime?

Grooming Old Garden Roses

First I must say that the overall quality of the Old Garden Roses (OGRs) at this year's local shows in the district was quite good. Last year was a disaster for a variety of reasons. There were few blooms and over-all quality was poor (mine included). This year was a great improvement in both quantity and quality. One exhibit that especially caught my eye was *Empress Josephine* exhibited by Kathleen Lapergola at the West Jersey show. It is rare to see this rose at shows because the blooms can be stunning in the early morning but fade quickly once the sun hits them. Kathleen had a beautiful specimen.

This not meant to be an exhaustive treatise on how to groom all the varieties of Old Garden Roses (OGRs) but some simple guidelines to

Substance is locked into the color evaluation. If the color is muddy, this must be carefully checked against substance. Some varieties actually have a muddy appearance when they are as fresh as the morning dew and not developing the muddy color due to age or refrigeration. If there are splotches or color lines on the petals, are these differences uniform throughout the bloom indicating that this is typical of the variety and not just a color fault?

These are some of the things that I look at when judging the OGR sections of the shows. And by the way, if you can, get to some of our local shows that have great OGR classes. I can recommend Harrisburg, Philadelphia and Reading as three shows that I like to check out the blooms. There is a great diversity and enthusiasts in those areas who show a lot of beautiful stuff.

So see ya at the OGR section of the next show, and please don't hit the table.
Tee Hee.

Fondly, Giggles.

help you enter better specimens. I will not go into all the nuances of grooming sprays, but concentrate on the single blooms. I will also speak to varieties that have a lot of petals. Those with lesser petal counts (say 5 – 20) are generally easier to groom and it is obvious without much work whether or not you have a good bloom.

The first step to entering good blooms is to grow the varieties that produce the blooms that routinely earn blue ribbons. There is a pattern. What is most pleasing to a judge's eyes should also be most pleasing to yours. We are looking for a bloom that presents a good circular outline, has striking color (either in evenness, strength or softness) and, hopefully, stamens which provide a nice contrast in the center of the bloom. Rose

de Rescht instantly comes to mind – the “madder” pink is almost always strong and even. The petals form an even pompom shape and, for bonus points, if the bloom is at it’s peak, a set of bright yellow stamens that provide great contrast to the pink.

Don’t get too carried away with showing the stamens. If they are fresh and bright and help provide that depth of contrast, then show them off. Some varieties have stamens that will be brown and aged by the time the bloom fully opens. These varieties are best shown a bit closed so as to not advertise the brown stamens.

If you have to remove a lot of mature petals and “pry” the center open, then you probably shouldn’t because the judges will easily spot this and downgrade the exhibit because it is “too manipulated.”

To get that circular pattern with a symmetry of petals sometimes takes a little work. Petaloids are the smaller, immature petals at the center of most blooms. Sometimes they are distracting. When you look closely at the symmetry of bloom, are you distracted by those little petals in the center of the bloom which go off in odd directions? If they distract you, they will distract the judge. The difference between a red ribbon and a blue or between a blue and best of class may be distracting petaloids. Carefully (gently!) remove them with a good pair of tweezers.

I took some photos of “before” and after and hope that they print out clear enough to show what I am trying to demonstrate.

Upper right is a bloom of Marbree, a Portland with a distinctive “mottling” on the petals. On first glance, this mottling may appear to be rain spots but if the judge doesn’t know the variety, a careful inspection of the bloom will show that this is the natural coloration of the bloom. The bloom has good color and nice stamens. If you look closely, there are a number of dark pink petaloids which are very distracting.



The next photo is with the distracting petaloids removed – much better! Now the viewer (the judge) can concentrate on color and symmetry without being distracted.



Compte de Chambord is a favorite that always seems to take some grooming to get the bloom to look its best. On the next page is a “nice” bloom – good color, a pretty good circular pattern but some “confusion” in the center. (Actually, on looking at the photo, I might just move a few of the inner petals but leave the bloom mostly as is



because the petals are already arranged in a nice symmetry. But for the purposes of this exercise, let's see the results of a little work.)

Below is the same bloom with some petaloids removed to show the stamens and the remaining inner petals flexed back by gentle finger work to create a round area of stamens in the center. Notice how the overall bloom appears more circular and symmetrical because the center of the bloom is opened into a circle.



Disbud the sidebuds or leave them on to "frame" the bloom? One of the toughest questions and you will ask yourself this in the prep room before every show.

You are allowed to leave the sidebuds on OGRs. Sometimes they help. Sometimes they distract. You have to decide what is most pleasing to you and hope the judges agree. You can hold your hand over the sidebud and determine if the specimen looks better without it. If so, then clip the sidebud off as close to the main stem as possible.

Below is a stem of *Madame Joseph Schwartz*, one of my beloved Tea roses. The bud sneaking out at the bottom of the bloom and the one way off to the upper left are certainly distracting and must go.



On the next page is the specimen with the two buds removed and a bit of the center opened to show stamens. I would probably take off the bud on the right but some would find the great pure color of the bud helps the exhibit. If it pleases you, then leave it on and hope it pleases the judges also.



I would definitely remove that outer petal at 1 o'clock which really throws off the circular outline. To remove outer petals, gently slide your finger and thumb down to the base of the petal and tug it with a slight sideways motion until it separates from the bloom.

You should clean the foliage (you will hear this called "polishing" the leaves. A soft cloth, an old piece of panty hose (not the ones you're

wearing!) or a small piece of sheepskin can all be utilized. The main thing is to get any spray residue and dirt off the leaf. Don't be afraid to trim off brown edges, insect bites or blackspot spots where you can leave some of the leaf. Use good sharp scissors and trim out the bad stuff and then trim the leaf again to give it the shape of the other leaves (ovoid, generally).

One other item to remember – entries in a specimen class can be picked up by the judge and viewed from behind or from underneath the bloom. It always seems to rain on the day before a show and my heavily-petaled damasks need a full day to dry out. So I always have some damaged outer petals that you can't see on a fully open bloom unless you do look at it from underneath. Always check to see if there are brownish, discolored outer petals and remove them as necessary. Don't count on the judges not holding the specimen up to look underneath.

As always, when you are in doubt about something, as a fellow exhibitor for their advice. Our exhibitors are a very friendly group and I have always found them to give an educated, honest opinion.

Miracle-Gro Shake and Feed plus Weed Preventer Recall

Liz Monroe sent this to us from an announcement in the Wilmington DE News Journal dated May 23 2008. This was the first I heard about it. I saw nothing in the Reading paper or in any of the usual magazines. Here is a synopsis.

Affected Products: Miracle-Gro® Shake 'n Feed® Plus Weed Preventer All Purpose Plant Food (EPA Reg. No. 62355-4, Found on bottom left of container)

4.5 lb yellow applicator jug – UPC 073561008365

8lb yellow applicator jug – UPC 073561048361

1 oz sample size – UPC 73561009362

The product is being recalled because it was not properly registered with the EPA. Do not return it to your retailer. They will send you a full refund and a container to return it to Scott's.

If you have this product, store in a cool, dry secure place, out of reach of children and contact Scott's at 1-888-295-0671 or in the web at scotts.com. They will send a special postage-paid container for you to return the product.

Show Results from Around the District

(more results will appear in the next issue)

Philadelphia Rose Society

June 1, 2008

Queen

Moonstone – John and Cherylyn Smith

King

Vereran's Honor - John and Cherylyn Smith

Princess

Double Delight - John and Cherylyn Smith

Mini Queen

Miss Flippins – Joe Yelinek

Mini King

Soportimist International – Joe Yelinek

Mini Princess

Heather Sproul – Joe Yelinek

Miniflora Queen

Cachet – Pat Bilson

West Jersey Rose Society

June 7, 2008

Queen

Genini – Ken Borrmann

King

Cajun Sunrise – Ken Borrmann

Princess

Affirm – Ken Borrmann

Prince

Dublin – Ken Borrmann

Duchess

Jema – Ken Borrmann

Mini Queen

Dancing Flame – Andrew Hearne

Mini King

Irresistible– Andrew Hearne

Mini Princess

Pierrine– Andrew Hearne

Mini Prince

Soroptimist International – Ken Borrmann

Mini Duchess

Fairhope – Andrew Hearne

Miniflora Queen

Louisville Lady – Andrew Hearne

Miniflora King

Conundrum – Nathan Borrmann

Miniflora Princess

Buttercream – Andrew Hearne

Reading Rose Society

June 8, 2008

Queen

Gemini – Ken Borrmann

King

Hot Princess– Ken Borrmann

Princess

Cajun Sunrise– Ken Borrmann

Mini Queen

Dancing Flame – Andrew Hearne

Mini King

Pierrine – Andrew Hearne

Mini Princess

Irresistible – Andrew Hearne

Miniflora Queen

Conundrum – Ken Borrmann

Miniflora King

Pierrine – Andrew Hearne

Miniflora Princess

Ricky Hedrick – Andrew Hearne

York Area Rose Society

June 14, 2008

Queen

Moonstoe – Glenn & Donna Smith

King

Love and Peace – Dave & Judy Yingling

Princess

Gemini – Glenn & Donna Smith

Mini Queen

Soroptimist International – Glenn & Donna

Smith

Mini King

Joy – Glenn & Donna Smith

Mini Princess

Bee's Knees – Mike Wrightstone

Miniflora Queen

Conundrum – Glenn & Donna Smith

Miniflora King

Tiffany Lynn - Glenn & Donna Smith

Miniflora Princess

Memphis King – Glenn & Donna Smith

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