



Nashville Rose Leaf

Official Publication of The Nashville Rose Society

Serving Rose Enthusiasts Throughout Middle Tennessee



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Volume 42, Issue 8

September Meeting Cheekwood Botanic Hall Tuesday, September 2, 2008

Michael Shoup
Antique Rose Emporium
"The Ultimate Garden Plant"
(Article on Page 5)



Evening Schedule

6:00-6:45 pm Beginner Program:
"Climbing Roses" by Leann Barron

6:30 pm - Refreshments

7:00-8:00 pm - Michael Shoup
Cheekwood admission free for meeting attendees

September Rose of the Month - Miss Kitty (See article on page 2, photo below)



Photo courtesy of Kitty Belendez

Above are pictures from the Antique Rose Emporium Garden Tours in San Antonio & Independence, Texas. (l-r) Climbing Old Blush, Marie Pavie & Children's Garden. Below Mike Shoup is framed on left by Lamarque and right by Climbing Old Blush



Photo courtesy of Antique Rose Emporium



Photo courtesy of Charles Lott

Above Stephen Scanniello speaks at Fairmont Cemetery Preservation meeting in Denver, CO. Stephen, featured speaker for the Tenarky District Convention, October 3-5, 2008, has recently been selected as a 2009 recipient of the Great Rosarian of the World Award. Roses in the picture are Mystery Damask and Fairmont Banshee (see Leann Barron's interview with Stephen on page 6)

Editor's Desk

Saying goodbye is never easy, especially when you have shared a close relationship for four years as I have with *Nashville Rose Leaf*. In the evolution of every affiliation there is a point when change is needed. So this September issue is my "sayonara" as editor of your newsletter.

Following retirement from my "day job" at DuPont, among the things I hoped to do with my time was writing. So when Sam Jones asked me to help with the newsletter I welcomed the opportunity. I can tell you truthfully that serving as your newsletter editor for the past four years has been the highlight of my ten years of retirement.

Limited space prohibits me from listing all of those who have contributed to the continued success of *Nashville Rose Leaf* while I have been editor. I would be remiss if I did not single out Glenda Whitaker and Sam Jones who wrote articles, proofed, encouraged, took pictures, attended meetings, helped raise funds, and did all of the many other things required for a monthly publication. Special thanks to Marty Reich who made life so much easier by mailing the newsletter each month. I would also like to thank Anne Owen, Don Gill, Leann Barron, Don Reed and Jean Bruce for serving faithfully on the newsletter advisory committee.

I am delighted that Jim Harding will be the new editor for *Nashville Rose Leaf*. He comes to the job with a lot of talent and experience in graphic design. I know you will support Jim and Starla just you have helped me and Ann. Thank you for allowing me the privilege of being your editor!

— Charles Lott

NRS Patrons

Our thanks to the following businesses and foundations who made sustaining donations to support the educational programs of Nashville Rose Society:

Houghland Foundation

SunTrust Bank

Rose of the Month — Pure White *Miss Kitty*

By Sam Jones (Picture on Front Cover)

A pure white *Cajun Moon*? What are the possibilities? *Crystalline*, a perennial white rose-show winner, might have some competition!

President's Column...

I hope everyone had a good time at the August meeting. Bob Edberg was a great speaker. I hope everyone got interested at least a little bit in old garden roses. There are so many different sizes and shapes to choose from. You can get a small rose like Roulette to something huge like a rambler. Most old garden roses are fragrant. If you watch people when they receive a rose the first thing they do is smell it. The flower shapes can vary from 5 petaled singles to huge 100+ petaled centifolias.

Mike Shoup of Antique Rose Emporium is our speaker for September. He got started in roses while he was a landscaper and beginning nurseryman. He was looking for roses people did not have to spend a lot of time on. One day he was with a friend and they stopped at an old homestead where there was an old neglected rose and they took cuttings. Now Mike is one of the most famous of the Texas Rose Rustlers.

The Texas Rose Rustlers are a group of rose growers that go to old homesteads and cemeteries and take cuttings of long forgotten roses. Many of these roses have been named, many are still being studied. If you want to be a rose rustler please only take cuttings or layer a branch in the ground when acquiring roses. It is not good karma to dig the plant up and take the whole thing.

Jennifer and I have rose rustled. Our most successful find is a rambler that we saw near a water tank. The rose was blooming like crazy about 100 feet from the road up in trees and over the weeds. I got "elected" to go and get some cuttings the next day. Luckily there was an old stone drive that went back towards the water tank so it was not bad. All the cuttings took. We brought three of them with us. The one that has been planted is overtaking everything next to it. It is a once bloomer but it puts on an amazing colorful and long show.

See you all at the September 2nd meeting.

—Jeff Harvey

So many plants, so little space

Kitty Belendez, a highly respected rosarian and exhibitor from Santa Clarita, California (near Los Angeles) has released this year a white sport of *Cajun Moon*, which she has aptly named *Miss Kitty*. Wisconsin Roses quickly sold out of the new cultivar, which means the color, form, and pedigree of the rose struck a cord with a lot of exhibitors who saw the possibilities. Kitty, herself, says that the rose has no pink color like its parent. Right away that puts it in the running for a great rose that is already showing favorably this season.

If *Miss Kitty* is directly related to *Cajun Moon* in practically all aspects except color—and pure white is not easily achieved in a rose—then we should also look at the qualities of its progenitor. To begin with, *Cajun Moon*, a creation of Tom Carruth of Weeks Roses (2001), is a sister seedling of *Moonstone* (1998), hence its "moon" designation. Weeks sold a number of Moonstone plants (then named *Cadillac de Ville*) to Spring Hill Nursery in blocks that mistakenly included some of her sibling plants. However, keen exhibitors noticed subtle differences.

Exhibitor Suzanne Horn of Las Vegas wrote: "One of those exhibitors was Lynn Snetsinger, who shared the following with me: 'When we all started showing *Moonstone*, we realized there were some slight differences between the two (primarily lighter color and fewer thorns on *Cajun Moon*). Further investigation revealed the mix-up, so the sister seedling was registered in 2002, as well, and was named *Cajun Moon*.'"

Suzanne Horn concludes about the practically thornless rose: "In summary, *Cajun Moon* is not only a great show rose, but is also a wonderful garden rose that is sure to reward any home gardener with breathtaking long-stemmed beauties throughout the growing season."

If the parent *Cajun Moon* shines so brightly in the garden and in shows, then its child-sport *Miss Kitty* should shine even brighter in its white brilliance. It's worth a call to Wisconsin Roses and reserve *Miss Kitty* for next year.

Meet Jim & Starla Harding New Editors for *Nashville Rose Leaf*

Jim and Starla Harding live in Thompsons' Station, TN. Jim is a partner in the architectural firm of Gresham, Smith and Partners. He has enjoyed working at GS&P for 23 years and leads their environmental graphic design group. Starla is an Enrolled Agent with the IRS, but recently stopped preparing tax returns to explore other pursuits. They have two daughters; Megan age 19 and Molly age 17 as well as a four-legged child named Stumps who is commonly mistaken for a dog.

One of Jim and Starla's favorite ways to spend time together is in their garden. Three years ago Starla persuaded Jim to buy her some roses. To his surprise she took good care of them so he gave her a membership in Nashville Rose Society as a Christmas gift. To her surprise Jim began sharing her love of roses. She loves the hybrid teas. He loves the English roses. The battle is on for space. Jim will become the editor beginning with the October 2008 issue. (picture on page 8)

Clerking for the Judge

By Mary Bates

My husband and I noticed him immediately—the Banker-impeccably dressed in a dark blue suit, crisp white shirt and dark red tie. I guess we have a trained eye for spotting the Banker in a crowd. But wait- we were at the Chattanooga Rose Show to relax and have fun, not look for financing for our next construction project so we continued on with our task at hand-clerking for the judging.

When all the clerks were assembled and divided into groups and assigned Judges to assist, we were surprised to see that we were assigned to the Banker. It was then that we noticed the pattern on the tie was dark red roses and the hands of this distinguished man were of a gardener, not a banker. When introductions were made, we discovered his name was Ted Mills.

Was this the Ted Mills of Mills Magic Mix or the Ted Mills who writes for the American Rose Society? My curiosity got the better of me, and I whispered an inquiry to my fellow clerk. “Both”, she replied with a smile.

So I found myself in the unique and enviable position of clerking for a true icon of the rose world, and there were so many things I wanted to say to him: that I have read his column “The Last Word,” in the American Rose magazine for years (I always flip to the back to read his article first because I know there will be valuable information that I can use in our rose garden); how my roses love the Mills Magic Mix and since I started using it there are lots more earthworms in my soil; how his words of wisdom often just pop into my head as I work in my rose garden:

“Keep your rose beds hospital clean”.

“Work to improve your soil by adding organics”.

“Never leave watering to chance.”

“Roses are ravenous eaters. Provide a steady diet of nutritious food.”

“Spray and feed regularly”.

“Organize your rose growing operations”.

“Be serious about your hobby”.

“Try try again.”

“Involve others in your wonderful hobby”.

But this was not the time nor the place for these discussions, judging was beginning.

As a courtesy, Ted often deferred to the judgment of the two lady judges who accompanied him. While the lady judges examined thoroughly each and every bloom, Ted could spot a winner from a distance and his keen eye and knowledge of what a winning rose is all about came naturally. Ted knew his choice when he approached the table. Ted was quick to laugh and quick to judge, often leaving us to scurry to find the next class to judge.

THE BEGINNING ROSARIAN September In The Rose Garden

By Anne Owen

September marks the beginning of the end for the rose garden. As of the first of September, you should not apply any more fertilizer to your roses if you are feeding monthly. If you plan to exhibit in any of the fall shows, especially the Tenarky District Fall Rose Show on October 4th, liquid fertilizer only through mid September is OK and would give your blooms an extra kick. Many top exhibitors have a special fall feeding program to achieve the best roses for fall shows, but this is not necessary for the average rosarian. The usual first frost in Middle Tennessee is mid to late October - fertilizer in the fall will produce new growth that will be killed with a freeze and can weaken the bush.

September also marks the time to start thinking about your 2009 rose garden – ordering new roses and replacing the varieties that are tired or not performing. Some roses just won't ever be good performers and should be replaced. Your time and resources are too valuable to waste them on a rose that won't ever be worthy. If you decide to try a new variety, check with other rosarians before buying it to see how they like it. Many a rose has been ordered only to find out later that it was a “dog”! (Dogs are so sweet, I think we should change that to a “rat”! “Rat rose” is definitely better.)

The Chattanooga Show was a lot of fun. I learned a lot that day including the importance of reading the show schedule. I was surprised how many beautiful roses were disqualified because they did not follow the schedule.

Although Ted did not judge either class, Dan Brickman won Novice Queen and Queen of the Show with his *Let Freedom Ring*. In a conversation later, I learned that Dan had been mentored by John Skinner and John Skinner had been mentored by Ted Mills. So it goes from one generation to the next. The knowledge is passed down on how to grow our beloved rose.

In a recent communication to me, Ted Mills stated, *“It is my mission to teach other rosarians the art of growing good roses. Please use our website at www.millsmix.com for this purpose. Click on where it says Ted's latest articles when the home page appears. Scroll down on the article and click on Newsletter Archives and 30 or more titles will appear.”*

We thank this Master Rosarian and Judge for teaching us all the Art of Growing Good Roses.

Thinking ahead to 2009, decide which roses will be replaced and shovel-prune them now so you won't have to continue maintaining them or winterize them. Any rose that has been puny all season won't improve over the winter. If a rose is on the fence – between being worth keeping and ready to shovel-prune, I have found that placing a shovel in the ground near the rose and leaving it for a few days will send the bush over one way or the other. You can also try telling the rose that if it doesn't shape up very soon, they are going on a one-way trip to the dump. Have you heard the expression, “He/She lives in the country and grows roses” meaning that the person is a little “out there where the buses don't run”? This is probably one reason why, but I swear it works!

Continue your spray schedule and watering thoroughly. If you are battling blackspot, spray twice a week for two weeks using Manzate, then resume your regular schedule. Keep the bushes pruned of any unproductive growth to help improve coverage of your spray materials. Once the temperatures start to lower significantly in the fall, you can decrease the frequency of your spray schedule.

Cut or deadhead your roses through early to mid October. After that time, leave the hips on the bushes to slow down the growth and ease the rose into dormancy. Remove the petals before they fall to keep the beds clean.

Organize your chemicals and get ready to store them for the winter. Using a garden marker that won't fade, mark the dosage in large letters on the label or lid and the month and year it was opened if you remember. Some chemicals are specific for a certain problem – wouldn't hurt to add that if there's room to prevent those senior moments. Store them in an insulated cooler dedicated just for chemicals in an area that won't freeze. If you have any questions about chemicals or doses, check out the Rosemania website (www.rosemania.com). They have great information as well as roses and rose growing supplies.

Fall blooms can be some of the most beautiful of the year. Take pictures for the Photo Contest and to help remember why we do all the things we do to keep having the most beautiful flowers of all.

Questions for Stephen Scanniello

by Leann Barron

LB: Stephen, it's a real honor to have you as our keynote speaker for the upcoming October Tenarky Rose District Convention in Nashville. In advance of your visit, we'd like to get to know you a bit better. When (and where) did you begin your rose journey?

I suppose I should say that I was surrounded by roses and rose gardens from the day I was born. But the reality is that I pulled the short straw one day at coffee break, while working at the Brooklyn Botanic Garden (BBG). I was an instructor in the education department at the time. This was a union house (city workers) and one day the boss came into coffee break, announced that the current rosarian (of over 25 years) was retiring. Well, everyone else knew to step away – I said... "I'll do it....(gulp)!" That was in January, 1984.

Once I fell in love with roses, family members told me tales of roses in our family. My Italian grandma – who I never knew, died young, and she kept Japanese beetles out of her garden by hanging rotted cigar butts in a coffee can. My mother's father (Irish) kept roses. It wasn't until I came across an old Polaroid of his house that I remembered his roses – Blaze, Queen Elizabeth, Golden Showers. Kids were forbidden to play near them. (6 boys in my family of 7 kids). One rose memory that will forever stay with me – My Aunt Joanne, from the Irish side (who always looked like Joan Crawford to me) pruned her Blaze every year on St. Patty's Day. When done, she would smear all cuts with her lipstick, "Love that Red." But, the passion for roses really started when Peter Beales invited me to come to England to work in his nursery for a month.

LB: Why roses?

Why not?

LB: What's your favorite garden "chore"?

Least favorite?

Favorite chore is pruning, right next to weeding and edging.

Least favorite: spraying, so I don't do that anymore.

LB: You are credited with the magnificent transformation of Brooklyn Botanic Garden's Cranford Rose Garden. It is now recognized as one of the top public gardens in the world. How did you get your arms around such a massive undertaking?

I was very limber. I was determined to make a tired rose garden work again – the Irish work ethic in me....put your head down and dig!

LB: How would you even begin with such a large project?

Peter Beales challenged me with the suggestion that maybe the soil needed to be replaced. I had spent a month working with Peter in 1988, in his nursery in England. Upon my return, I announced to my bosses that it was time to change the soil. This was after more than 60 years of growing the same crop in the same soil.....it was definitely time. It took

5 years to complete this project. We saved all of the rare and one of a kind hybrids, the rest we sold off to Brooklyn Botanic Garden members - \$5 a bush, come dig your own. We selected 3 beds a year, with the members digging in the autumn. 5 years later we completed the restoration of the 15 main beds in the garden. I still see my babies in private gardens all over Brooklyn – still with the yellow tags I made for them.

By late summer, many of us Southern rose gardeners (including me) wilt in the heat, throw in the sweaty towel, and stay inside with our iced tea, fly swatters and air-conditioning. What encouragement can you give us to persevere in hot, humid conditions?

MOVE. The roses will still be there when the cool autumn weather comes. Focus on good Mojitos.

LB: What's a garden pet peeve of yours? I need to know before you visit mine.

Biggest pet peeve: Roses grafted onto Dr. Huey. (LB: I am already doomed...)

Pet Peeve #2: High falutin' garden designers who know only two roses: *Iceberg* and *Blanc Double de Coubert* --- *Iceberg* is fine, but BDdC looks like a dirty handkerchief in our humid weather. I have worked in countless gardens ripping these plants out after the wake of a designer...Also; boring rose gardens. I am tired of seeing just roses in beds.....mix it up! (LB: eek, we're all doomed!)

LB: Let's talk organic fertilizers: horse manure or chicken?

Horse, if it is a clean source – also has sentimental value....Dana, my partner, shoveled horse manure on our first date, 19 years ago. Chicken – I have access to a chicken manure pile, love it!

LB: How do you suggest we treat our blackspot bothered roses?

Shovel prune. If I can't live without the rose, I pull off foliage at the base during the first bloom cycle. Avoid overhead watering, however, wash the plants in the morning after a humid evening. Use water. Spray infected areas with horticultural oil during the dormant season and early spring.

Use companions that will distract you from the blackspot.

Prune the shrubs during mid-season (between peak blooms) to get a fresh spurt of healthy growth. Choose more resistant varieties.

LB: What roses should be in every garden?

Belinda's Dream

Autumn Bouquet

Autumn Sunset

The Green Rose

Rosa moschata – or any gallica in a cold weather garden

LB: For inspiration, what is the garden book you reach for first?

The Gardener's Bed Book: Short and Long

Pieces to Be Read in Bed by Those Who Love Green Growing Things. Richardson Wright, 1929.

LB: Stephen, if you could have a dinner party with great gardeners present and past, who would make your guest list and why?

Empress Josephine: To challenge her in Rose Alphabet, to see if she really knew her roses.; George F. Harison: How did you make Harison's Yellow? And did you prefer one R or two?; Samuel Feast: Who was a Baltimore Belle?; Mr. Fellenberg: Who were you? Why is there a rose and a plum named for you?; Any member of the Burwell family from 17th century Virginia: "Where did your musk rose come from?"; Dr. Huey: to tell him the sad news that he is the rootstock we all dread; Leonie Bell: to do something I never had a chance to do when she was with us - say "thank you."; Peter and Joan Beales: I owe them many, many dinners. Tom Carruth, then maybe he'll create a rose for me.

LB: What question do you wish I'd asked?

What's the name of my new book, coming out in February '09? Funny you should ask – it's called, *A Rose by Any Name: A Flower's Entanglement in Love, War, Politics, Show Business, Poetry, Folklore, Fashion, Sports, and Other Matters Sacred and Profane.* Algonquin Press. Co-written with Douglas Brenner. By the way, I'm being honored, along with Marilyn Wellan, as the 2009 recipient of The Great Rosarian of the World Award.

Stephen Scanniello is best known as a hands on gardener who transformed the Cranford Rose Garden of the Brooklyn Botanic Garden into one of the world's most acclaimed rose gardens.

After leaving the Cranford in 1998, Stephen is devoting his full attention to maintaining and designing private gardens throughout the United States. He continues to lecture, write, and serve as a judge for the international rose trials in Europe, and the United States.

*Stephen has co-authored two rose books - *Roses of America* (1990, Holt) and *Climbing Roses* (1994, Prentice Hall/Horticulture, now Macmillan). *Rose Companions* (2005, Cool Springs Press) is about selecting the perfect companion plants for your roses. The American Horticultural Society selected his third book, *A Year of Roses* (1997, Holt) as one of the best 10 books in horticulture for 1997. An updated edition of this award-winning classic was released in May 2006 (Cool Springs Press). His next book, co-authored with Douglas Brenner, *A Rose By Any Name*, will tell stories related to rose names. This book, published by Algonquin Press, will be released in February 2009.*

Stephen is the recipient of a Horticulture Commendation, awarded to him by the Garden Club of America, Zone 4, in 2008 for his efforts in the preservation of old garden roses. Stephen, along with past ARS president Marilyn Wellan, will be the recipient of the GROW (Great Rosarian of the World) Award for 2009. He is currently the president of the Heritage Rose Foundation and a member of the American Rose Society, Manhattan Rose Society, Dallas Area Historic Rose Society, Heritage Roses Northwest, and Central Florida Heritage Rose Society. He lives and gardens in Jersey City and Barnegat, New Jersey. (see picture on page 7)

September 2nd Meeting

Features

Antique Rose Emporium's Michael Shoup

Those beautiful climbing roses whose pictures you've seen in this and other publications can highlight your garden also. Come and find out how at the NRS Beginner meeting, September 2, 2008. ARS Consulting Rosarian and landscape designer Leann Barron will give a presentation on Climbing Roses. The session begins promptly at 6:00 pm at Cheekwood Botanic Hall.

Mike Shoup has always had an interest in plants. With this in mind, he received his Bachelor of Arts degree in Biology from Trinity University and his Master's degree in Horticulture from Texas A & M University. In 1976, a year after graduation, he started Containerized Plants, Inc. which grew and sold woody plants and hardy, old-fashioned perennials, Texas natives and, most importantly, neglected Old Garden Roses.

In 1984 he opened the Antique Rose Emporium which specialized in the re-introduction and distribution of these historic roses. This developed into display garden/retail centers in historic Independence and San Antonio, Texas. These unique retail centers consist of theme gardens showing the versatility of antique roses in garden settings. His work has been recognized in Smithsonian and National Geographic magazines and in many trade journals as well. His hope is that the beauty seen in these gardens will create a resurgence in the preservation of these rare and beautiful roses.

Mike served on the board of directors and as president (2002-2004) of the Heritage Rose Foundation, an organization dedicated to the preservation of Old Garden Roses.

Mike has written many articles and supplied numerous photographs for trade magazines and national periodicals on the subject of using Old Garden Roses in today's gardens. He has written two books, *Roses in the Southern Garden*, published in 2000 and in 1991 published *Landscaping with Antique Roses*, co-authored with Liz Druitt.

Mike and his wife, Jean, have three children, 24, 21 and 19 and are active in many organizations in Brenham, Texas including Unity Theater, Chamber of Commerce and Rotary.

This is a rare opportunity so, you will not want to miss this outstanding rosarian's presentation on The Ultimate Garden Plant beginning at 7:00 pm.

September Rose Tips

Most rosarians have tricks to simplify gardening chores. How about sharing some of your "tricks" with others! Send your rose tips to the editor at crlott@bellsouth.net.

I discovered that Infuse (more dilute version of Banner Maxx) was clogging the pantyhose filter I use on my Atomist sprayer. I was concerned that filtering it before putting it in the sprayer might filter out the chemical itself so wrote the company--Bonide. They told me it was OK to filter as long as the bottle was well shaken before use.

— Marty Reich

Several years ago I participated in one of Anne Owen's classes on how to root roses from cuttings. The session was at her place where she has a neat little greenhouse with facilities to mist the plants being rooted. Ever since I wished for a greenhouse of my own. Last year Larry Baird taught me how to create a "poor person's greenhouse" for rooting plants. Coat the bottom of the cutting with root promoter such as "Root Tone", plant in a small container filled with good potting mix and wet thoroughly. Place the plant in an air tight plastic bag (I use 2 gallon resealable bags purchased at a discount store). Be sure there is enough moisture in the bag to create a hothouse effect. Place the bag containing plant in a semi-shaded area outdoors, and leave it there to grow roots. You should check every 4-5 days and open the bag to allow the plant to breathe fresh air. Add moisture if needed. Within a month to six weeks you should see roots on your new rose. [Note: Anne Owen will offer another rooting class in the fall of 2008, call her at (615) 794-0138 if interested]

— Charles Lott, ARS Consulting Rosarian.

Instead of paying \$60-90 for a 50 lb. bag of Osmocote or BloomKote slow-release fertilizer, consider paying \$16 for a 40 lb. bag of a different kind of slow-release pellets. The product, called Tenn-Lawn, is a balanced, slow-release fertilizer developed by the Tennessee Farmers Cooperative for cool season grasses. It contains trace elements (iron, boron, copper, manganese, and zinc), as well as N, P, & K: (21-8-12). For slower nitrogen release, urea pellets are sulfur coated (not resin-coated), gradually dissolving with weather and irrigation, making nutrients last longer (two months or more). Use it in combination with organic products like composted manure, Mills Mix, alfalfa meal, Milorganite, and the like, for balanced feeding while improving the soil.

— Sam Jones, ARS Consulting Rosarian, Horticulture & Arrangement Judge

Your last liquid fertilizer feeding should be no later than the middle of September. You will want your plant to start slowing down on new growth so it is not hard-hit by our first freeze sometime in late October. Continue your preventative spray program and don't let up until we have had at least 2 hard freezes. This is usually late November or Early December.

— Robbie Tucker, ARS Consulting Rosarian, co-owner of Rosemania.com

Come September I will have removed all spent blooms and have cut back the stronger canes to a five leaf set. Maintaining my own records for individual varieties, I can estimate the bloom time in October for each of the varieties I grow. Now is the time to establish the bloom cycles of your newer varieties. By keeping good records, you can control the timing of peak bloom in your fall rose garden

— David Clemmons, ARS Consulting Rosarian, 2008 AOE winner with Joy

NRS Grand Prix 2 September 2nd

By Dillard Lester

One of the highlights of the September 2nd NRS meeting will be Grand Prix 2. The Grand Prix, a local society rose show held at a regular NRS meeting provides an opportunity for members to learn about and practice exhibiting roses. This is the second and final Grand Prix of 2008 for Nashville Rose Society. The Grooming Room will be open at 5:30 PM. Experienced exhibitors will be there to help anyone needing help grooming roses. Winners for the year will be announced at the December awards banquet. This is an excellent opportunity for novice exhibitors to practice exhibiting in preparation for the Tenarky District Rose Show October 3-5, 2008. For additional details see the insert with this publication.

Great Free Trial Offer

Every new non-ARS member of a local society will receive a Free Trial 4-month membership in the American Rose Society. Trial membership will include:

- Two issues of American Rose Magazine
- A list of ARS Partners offering product discounts
- The Reciprocal Garden Guide for gardens across US
- An invitation to apply for the US Bank Credit Card
- An ARS Membership identification card
- Other benefits adding up to a \$34 value

Nashville Rose Society membership chair Marty Reich will send names and addresses of new local society members to American Rose Society membership director. This offer includes all non-ARS members of local societies from July 1 to December 31, 2008.

FROM THE GROUND UP

By Leann Barron

It's Showtime

By Glenda Whitaker

We should have some hungry exhibitors out there who want to get back in the swing of some excellent competition with their roses. This time there will be a double opportunity for entering: Nashville Rose Society entries and Tenarky District classes. A show schedule indicating all opportunities for horticulture and arrangement entries can be accessed on our web site: www.nashvillerosesociety.com or www.tenarkydistrict.org. Familiarizing oneself with the show schedule, reading all the rules for horticulture and arrangements, is a good first step to get the juices flowing for good old fashioned competition.

Having read the schedule of classes, now is a good time to walk your garden and ascertain the roses you grow that could fit into any one of many categories. The horticulture specimen classes will be among the first to consider: hybrid teas (best blue ribbon entries will be in competition for the coveted Queen of Show, then King, then Princess); grandifloras (single and spray specimens); floribundas (single and spray), polyanthas; miniatures and mini-floras; modern shrubs and old garden roses (OGR); and large and small climbers. From these categories comes the tally of blue ribbons won by an individual to name the Sweepstakes Award Winner, another coveted milestone. Filling out entry tags in full (no shortcuts) is an important part of exhibiting, making sure the rose is correctly named and listed in correct section and class. The September meeting will be a good time to corner someone at the Welcome Table or one of our members to bone up on how to properly make a rose entry at the show.

Make a written note on the schedule you have printed out (or a copy obtained at the Welcome Desk at the September meeting) about your possibilities, walking in the garden again to plug in your dream entries. Just think how exciting it would be to win a blue, red, yellow, or green honorable mention ribbon, plus perhaps a keepsake trophy to give you even more bragging rights.

Moving on from individual horticulture entries, take a look at the Challenge Classes in the schedule. The Challenge Classes are just that: an extra challenge to the exhibitor to come up with enough top roses to put multiple specimens in any one challenge class as directed. The best entry in each has the extra benefit of a nice trophy for your effort.

Your pre-planning will pay off when it gets closer to show time Oct. 4th, making some final plans for cutting roses (as early as Monday before the Saturday rose show if you have refrigeration available). Your best roses, however, will be the freshest cut one or two days before or even the morning of the show,

for vibrant color and substance to show their stuff. (Many times in our own exhibiting we have gone out in the garden at daylight and found that perfect rose to add to the number.)

Exhibiting does take some foresight and hard work, but the fun, fellowship, and competition are well worth it. Ted Mills, one of our best friends in our rose growing (Mill Magic Rose Mix), is a seasoned rose judge who gives us this word of wisdom: "Always couple the competitive spirit with a sense of unselfishness toward your competitor." Your fellow exhibitors can be your best friends answering those last minute identification questions that are inevitable. Be happy for every ribbon won, whether you or someone else. Remember, it is competition judged by trained, accredited American Rose Society Judges who have looked carefully over all the specimens and have done their utmost to choose the best. Volunteering to be a clerk for the judges allows one to observe what the judges are looking for in a winning specimen. Clerking etiquette requires one to remain silent during deliberation by the judging team, keeping keen ears and eyes open to their decision, with not a hint of interference.

As in any competition, there is an ultimate score where the evaluation begins. In this case, 100 points would be perfection. The rose bloom itself carries 60 of those points in its perfection of form, vibrant color true to the particular cultivar, substance (freshness), and size of bloom. Stem and foliage carry the next highest point count, for this part reveals another element of substance and health. There should be a pleasing stem length to compliment the size of the bloom, generally 15" - 18" in length, sufficient to allow for a good 2" - 4" to be submerged in the vase of water. This serves two purposes: sufficient length to anchor the rose in the vase for stability and secondly, to avoid one of the worst disappointments for an exhibitor - finding ones rose entry has drooped because of lack of water. (A freshly cut rose drinks up lots more water than one that has been well hydrated ahead of time.) Only the part of the stem submerged in the water should ever be stripped of its foliage for reasons of lessening bacterial growth, hurting the substance of the entry. The foliage above the water line should never be stripped. No naked ladies allowed!

When ready to cut, look for a hybrid tea that has a high spiraled center and cut at the 1/2 to 3/4 stage of opening (depending on petal count of the cultivar and your experience as to how quickly the bloom might open). If refrigeration is not available, a rose can be cut at 1/4 - 1/2 stage and allowed to open gradually in a dark or low light area of a room. Keep this in

Tenarky District Convention
and Rose Show
Cheekwood Botanic Gardens
"Roses for Everyone"
Special Guest
Stephen Scanniello
October 3-5, 2008
Brentwood Holiday Inn
Nashville, Tennessee
Contact: Sam Jones,
(615) 646-4138,
gsamj@bellsouth.net

mind also if rain showers are predicted. When first cut from garden, it is important to hydrate the rose to its maximum by re-cutting the stem under water and plunging the length of the stem into deep water just up to bloom head. After at least two hours of deep hydration, transfer stem to lower water level with as little foliage under water as possible to discourage bacterial growth. Refrigerate until ready to take to rose show. Last minute cuts from the garden the night before can be left outside in the cool October air. Carefully transport specimens in a divided box, bloomsaver, or whatever can be kept stable while driving. Speed bumps can jostle a rose sufficiently to change the entry to the Open Bloom Class! Was a rose bloom decapitated from its stem? Put it in the floating bowl class. Never give up on finding a place for that last rose.

Finally, Robert B. Martin, Jr., an outstanding exhibitor from California, has given us a last minute prayer "At the End of Entries" as follows: (with apologies to Ogden Nash, he adds, and our apologies for this shortened version)

Dear Lord, observe this bended knee, this visage meek and humble, and heed this confidential plea, voiced in a reverent mumble. -- Oh, when the chairman's whistle blows, just once, Lord, let me grin. Let me have groomed my last fine rose and have my entries in. Let me not bite more off the cob than I have teeth to chew. Please let me finish that last job before the rose is due. Consider, too, the pace of growth, sporadic though it be; why is it that the rose is loath to bloom on time for me?

For many weeks the rose shows loom, and I have nought to play; then suddenly the roses bloom all on the self same day.

Queens and Kings I pray thee send alone and not in bunches, or teach me I cannot pretend to groom them when the crunch is.

Let me my roses not misname, nor mark them a wrong class; else harden me to the same of judges who walk past.

One little lull, Lord, that's my plea, then loose the storm again: Just once, this once, I beg to be not in a jam. Amen.

Poem captured from Rose Exhibitor's Forum, Winter 2002, Robert B. Martin, Jr., Editor

NRS, Tenarky, & ARS Coming Events

Details & other event news on our website: www.nashvillerosesociety.com

SEPTEMBER 2008

2	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>NRS Meeting @ Cheekwood - Massey Hall</u> 5:00-7:00 pm NRS Grand Prix 2 - Set Up and Placement 6:00-6:45 pm Beginner Program: "Climbing Roses" By Leann Barron, ARS Consulting Rosarian 6:30 pm Refreshments by Melissa Gowan and Hospitality Team 7:00 pm "The Ultimate Garden Plant" By Mike Shoup of Antique Rose Emporium, Houston, TX</p>
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OCTOBER 2008

3-5	<p>Tenarky District Convention & Rose Show, Nashville, TN Convention: Sam Jones, (615) 646-4138, gsamj@bellsouth.net Rose Show: Ray Hunter (615) 227-7153, nash809@comcast.net</p>
11	<p>5:00 pm NRS Picnic - Glenda Whitaker's, 1129 Overton Lea Rd., Nashville, TN, Contact: Jeff Harvey (615) 268-7089, dirtdawg@hughes.net</p>
12	<p>Dixie Rose Club Show, Memphis Botanic Gardens-Contact: Tammy Boswell, tboswell63@comcast.net, see www.dixieroseclub.org</p>

NOVEMBER 2008

11	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>NRS Meeting @ Cheekwood - Massey Hall</u> 6:00-6:45 pm Beginner Program: "Winterizing Roses"-Charles Lott 6:30 pm Refreshments - Chili & Cornbread Cookoff 7:00 pm "Oriental Manner Flower Design" - Betty Langford</p>
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DECEMBER 2008

2	<p>6:00 pm Nashville Rose Society Annual Awards Banquet. University Club of Nashville. Contact: Sandra Frank, (615) 383-7058, cdrfrank@bellsouth.net</p>
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Contributions

Nashville Rose Society is a 501c-3 organization and all contributions to the society are tax-deductible. Contributions may be made as memorials or to honor some person, group, or occasion. Checks for contributions should be made payable to Nashville Rose Society and mailed to:

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Nashville Rose Society Membership

We are a non-profit organization serving the middle Tennessee area to educate persons on growing and exhibiting roses. Membership is open to everyone who supports the objectives of the organization. Annual dues of \$20.00 includes a subscription to The Nashville Rose Leaf, the official newsletter of the society. To join send a check payable to Nashville Rose Society to:

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Welcome New Members

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 Brentwood, TN 37027
 615-778-3150

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 *Marty Reich(615) 833-0791
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 *Cecil & Bessie Ward(615)373-2245
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Larry & Connie Baird(931) 729-5259

*Indicates ARS Master Rosarian



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Editor Emeritus: Glenda Whitaker
NRS Website Address: www.nashvillerosesociety.com

Photo courtesy of Charles Lott



Above NRS Hospitality chair Melissa Gowan (r) is assisted by Janet Shew (l) and Bessie Ward at the August NRS Ice Cream/Dessert Social. Bessie won first place with her Rocky Road Dessert.



Above Cindy Lemay is shown serving her Butter Finger ice cream that won first place in the NRS contest.

Below, Jim & Starla Harding are shown in the prep room at the June 2008 NRS Grand Prix preparing roses for exhibition. Jim will be Nashville Rose Leaf editor beginning with the October 2008 issue. (see article on page 2)

Photo courtesy of Charles Lott



New Members Barbara (l) and Walter Gant with Glenda Whitaker (c) in the garden at Cheekwood prior to August NRS meeting.

Photo courtesy of Charles Lott

Photo courtesy of Marilyn Wellan