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# THE ROSE BEACON

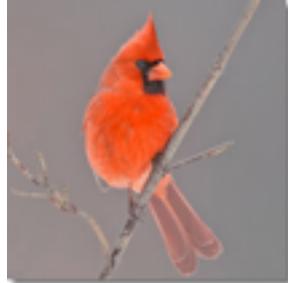
Next meeting: Saturday, February 19, 2011 10am

Harwich Community Center, 100 Oak Street, Harwich, MA

**GOODIE TABLE - MEMBERS LAST NAME STARTING M-Z**

**Guest Speaker: David Clapp**

**Attracting birds to your backyard!!**



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE - By Oz

The big day is getting closer. But, just in case you have been in a deep cooler with your new bare root roses, I will mention it again. Our society is hosting the annual Yankee District Spring Convention. It is our turn, our pleasure, and our obligation with a list of things to do. If you haven't signed up to help, Saturday is a great day to see me or Audrey, there is always something that needs to be done. The convention is being held at the beautiful Ocean Edge Resort on 6A in Brewster during the weekend of March 25-27. Even though the details have been mentioned at our recent meetings, written about in the monthly "Rose Beacon", published in the Yankee "Rose Window", and have been sent out in frequent emails, I will review some of the hi-lites of the convention and your expectations as a Lower Cape Rose Society member. First of all, our pride should tell us that we should have the largest number of people attending this local convention, not the Connecticut Rose Society, not the Rhode Island Rose Society, not the New Hampshire Rose Society and not the Wrentham based New England Rose Society. We should have the most! You should register to see and hear the wonderful list of Saturday speakers. They are a group of nationally known, experienced American Rose Society presenters. And don't forget our own C.L. Fornari, the "out of control plant person" from the Saturday morning call-in garden program. There is an exceptional rose auction that borders on the unbelievable, with roses and bargains galore! After the very, very reasonable banquet dinner, there will be an Awards Presentation ceremony that you will be talking about for weeks. Plus, how can you turn down a chance to give yourself a rare treat by staying in a 4-star Resort bedroom, at the special Convention rate of only \$110 ....Here we go!! This Saturday, Feb 19, we have arranged for a special program. Audrey returned last week from one of her garden club meetings very pleased with a presentation that she had just heard. I thought that he would be a treat for our meeting, so I called his home. David was out of town and would not return for a week. Well, good things come to those who wait. David Clapp, a local Naturalist expert, has returned from the Galapagos Islands. He will present a very entertaining and enlightening program dealing with "Attracting Birds to Your Yard". This should be a very enjoyable time for all our gardeners and anyone who loves the outdoors.

## Consulting Rosarians

|                  |                     |
|------------------|---------------------|
|                  | Julie Gammon, Chair |
| Greg Davis       | 508-259-0494        |
| Cindy Ehrenreich | 508-280-0323        |
| Irwin Ehrenreich | 508-280-0325        |
| Julie Gammon     | 774-212-1202        |
| Virginia Hatch   | 508-394-0079        |
| Alma Madden      | 508-548-4465        |
| Audrey Osborn    | 508-221-1256        |
| Oz Osborn        | 508-221-6734        |
| Laurel Swanson   | 508-580-4326        |

## YANKEE DISTRICT SPRING CONVENTION

By Audrey Osborn

The Lower Cape Rose Society is hosting the Yankee District Convention the weekend of March 25-27 at Ocean Edge Resort in Brewster. All rose lovers are invited to attend! To view and print up the registration form and meal choices along with convention schedule, click on the following link:

[YD 3 page convention info](#)

We have put together a good convention with good speakers. C.L. Fornari is the luncheon speaker (you might know her from WXTK Saturday morning 8AM radio show). There are door prizes, many raffle items including a brand new 22 inch Vizio Internet-ready TV, dinner in the Mansion Ballroom followed by a rose auction (really great prices - I bought many roses last year for a price between \$5 and \$10 each) This is a great opportunity to get to know many New England rose growers here in our own backyard. Many people from our home society are not staying at Ocean Edge. Everyone attending does have to pay the registration fee of \$30 - that helps us to pay for the speakers; we are flying Steve and Susie Jones in from California, Paul Colombo is coming from Michigan, two other speakers are coming from Ohio. I really think everyone will have a good time.

Every year our rose society has either a Fall luncheon or a Spring luncheon (the past few years it has been at Albertos in Hyannis) We are not having one this year because of the work involved for our society chairing the Yankee convention. We are hoping many of our members come to the dinner at Ocean Edge and enjoy some of the great daytime speakers we have lined up. I'm sure you will enjoy yourself - and get ready for our spring growing season here on the Cape!



## RAMBLING WITH OZ

Let's start with a quote from the late Howard Walters' book, that is available for sale in the "American Rose" or online from ARS. "The rains that nourish the optimist's roses brings out the pessimist's blackspot." What a great outlook for all the beautiful garden work that will soon be before us. Was it just last June or July, I remembering saying to Audrey that I didn't care how hot it was, I would never complain about the heat because winter is so damn cold! What a prophet I turned out to be. But now, how can we help but being an optimist when today's sun was up at 6:39, and will be up even earlier tomorrow. I think that it is time to safely trade the snow shovel for a spade, here we go!

I have been spreading ashes from my wood on the rose gardens, I believe that it acts faster than most lime products to raise the Ph of the soil, you can use less, and I know that it is cheaper than going to the store. Soon the garden soil will be workable and the weeding will begin. Calls are already coming in on the garden talk shows about chickweed, they tell me that hand pulling works the best, especially on established clumps. Put down that Preen, and reach for the corn gluten, which is an organic, non toxic, safer alternative. They both are pre-emergents working by drying out a seed as soon as it germinates. Corn gluten is a by product of the corn milling process, its weed and feed (9-1-0) properties discovered by accident. Another safer choice for the starting the season with a clean garden is the use of a lime sulfur product. Paul Zimmerman, one of our former Yankee Convention speakers, suggested not putting unnecessary chemicals in the environment when they might not be needed. Sulfur is a natural eradicate. It kills any fungi or insects that have wintered over on the rose canes or soil and taken hold in your garden, and does it almost instantly. It's one of the ingredients used in the old "Bordeaux Mixture" used to spray the vineyards in France. Wait until the temperature is around 45 and spray on the rose canes and surrounding soil at a mixture of 1TBS per gallon of water. It is time to ask yourself where and what I want to do my new plantings and to address last year's problems. Remember that roses are sunshine plants and require at least six hours of full sun each day. I know of one member who planted several new roses too close to some pine trees - he made raised beds for drainage, filled them with organics, but had little sun. The result was several spindly canes in the entire bed reaching for the sun. Problem solved, the answer, location, location. location. As the temperature increases, start replenishing the beds with additional mulch, compost, manure and other organics. Fertilizers, such as Rose-tone, Holly-tone and Mills Magic can also be thrown at this time. They will be slowly absorbed by the soil and plants at when they are ready. Remember, you feed the soil and the soil will feed the plants. You want something else to do? Go out to the shed, make sure your gloves are in good shape, bring in your pruners and saws and start sharpening. Okay, now it's time for a cup of coffee and a walk in the sunshine through the rose gardens.



# The Life of a Rosarian

By Steve Jones, 25769 Mogul Court, Valencia, CA 91355 [SEVROSE@AOL.COM](mailto:SEVROSE@AOL.COM)

(This article courtesy of Steve Jones and [American Rose](#) - Magazine of the American Rose Society)

*The Birthing Stage* is probably triggered by the memory of the roses your mother or grandmother grew and their sweet fragrance (or sharp thorns). Few rosarians are fortunate enough to be born into a wealthy rose culture with a "Silver Spoon" in their yard.

*The Terrible Twos Stage*, when you move into your first home and plant the first of many roses to come. You purchase a reference book by Ortho and buy the roses with the prettiest pictures, the most fragrance and your favorite colors, if you can find them.

*The Adolescent Stage*, in which you attend your first rose show and/or your first rose society meeting. It is not uncommon to join the ARS first, as most ARS members do not belong to local societies. You usually find out about the meetings through a friend, neighbor, an article in *American Rose* or a local publication. A total feeling of inadequacy around other rosarians marks this stage.

*The Teen Stage*. You become adventurous and start answering questions on your own, but not without reservation. At this stage, it is common to develop an interest in exhibiting. You are thrilled at winning your first novice trophy. For some rosarians, this is the stage when they reach the crossroads of their young careers, to exhibit, remain a general gardener, to arrange roses or to specialize in old garden roses, hybrid teas, minis, etc.

In the *Graduation Day Stage*, the cold reality of being a rosarian hits you. You now have to compete against the big boys and girls at the shows. You replace the first roses you planted with exhibition-quality roses. Color and fragrance don't matter anymore. You begin a spraying program, so those roses that you wouldn't purchase before because of their lack of disease resistance are now creeping into your yard because they have great form. You also start buying all the newest roses so you can get the top roses first, especially anything described by the magical words, "exhibition potential".

*The Young Adult Stage*. Your exhibiting is hitting top stride. Your simple yard is a miniature jungle. You have lots of roses in pots, and you are proficient at spraying, budding, and taking cuttings. You establish "connection" to get bud-wood of the hottest roses. Your knowledge grows and your society sends in the paperwork for your nomination for Consulting Rosarian. You even attend Judges School, even though you'd rather exhibit.

In the *Middle Crisis Stage*, you start to slow down. Your "jungle" is almost too much to handle without help, especially since you are out of town exhibiting or judging a lot. The exhibiting starts to decrease and your judging increases. You start to think out your jungle and stop purchasing all of the newest roses without a recommendations from a top exhibitor. You leave most of the newest "potential exhibition" roses for the more ambitious rosarians. This is usually the starting period for people to talk you into serving as an officer at your local or district level. You start to slack off from spraying every three to seven days to once every two weeks or longer.

*The Retirement Stage*. The exhibiting slows to a crawl. You rarely buy any new roses unless they have won queens. You have served in more than one office at the local or district levels, and you contemplate running for national offices. You judge almost every show and may have served as Judges Chairperson. You are the expert Consulting Rosarian. You seem to know it all. You may have won the Outstanding Judge or Consulting Award or, better yet, the Silver Medal from your district. This stage seems to run concurrently with your retirement from work (your other job).

In the *Emeritus Stage*, your rose garden may shrink to the same size as in the Terrible Twos Stage. You rarely buy any roses; more often, people give them to you. Exhibiting is almost nonexistent. Everyone comes to you with their questions because you have seen and know it all. You are a respected member of the rose world, and you judge as much as you possibly can. You teach new members and discuss with pride your life in roses, and if you could do it all over again, you wouldn't change a thing.

# Roses Worth Keeping!

By Laurel Swanson, Consulting Rosarian

If you are a newer rosarian and are looking for some good roses for your garden, keep in mind that the newer introductions are probably more disease resistant. This means less spraying and better looking leaves supporting your blooms. I have only been growing roses for 10 years now, but experience is a great teacher when it comes to selection. Check your Roses in Review book from the ARS for the rating in our area. In most cases, a rating of 8.0 or above indicates a good quality bush with consistent blooms and good disease resistance. Most nurseries in the area will only carry roses that do well in our growing zone. Though I have ordered roses over the internet, shopping local does boost local businesses and if you have difficulties, you can often return or replace your bush. You can also get information first hand about the individual rose bushes you are considering before you purchase them. Keep in mind, that roses need enough sunshine, water, and food, as well as consistent deadheading and weeding to live up to their potential. Here are some of my recent choices and how they have fared in my garden. Perhaps you will consider them for your garden.

**Sophy's Rose** - Davis Austin English shrub (medium height) - A lovely rose pink color . My bush is only 2 years old yet I have gone from 59 blooms the first year to 196 in the second year. It is over 4 feet tall, fragrant, and a nicely shaped bush.

**Bonica** - shrub - lovely pink blooms which flush two or three times a year. I have 2 mixed in with my front shrubs and I have 8 out back. A cascade of flowers with a healthy bush and rounded shape. It can grow 5-6 feet tall so give it room.

**Kiss Me** - Easy Elegance shrub - One of many EE rose bushes that have come on the market in recent years. Mine is 2 years old. This first year I got 16 blooms. The second it gave me 147. Hardy and easy to grow. Bailey Nurseries are producing some wonderful rose bushes.

**Jeanne La Joie** - A climbing mini rose - light pink - absolutely the most beautiful mini climber. A rose bush that never quits. Grows only to 4-5 feet in my yard but is healthy and produces many blooms all summer long.

**Tuscan Sun, Pretty Lady, Hot Cocoa, Julia Child, Easy Does It, Heaven on Earth** - floribundas that produce over 50 and often over 100 blooms every year. All have beautiful foliage, nice shapes and with a variety of colors, these are all excellent choices for your garden.

**Electron, Voluptuous, Spellbound, Sedona, Artistry, Quietness, Moonstone, Secret and Ingrid Bergman** - Hybrid teas that produce well, look beautiful in a vase, and offer a variety of colors to please everyone. I have come to realize that, although I do have favorites, some roses do not live up to the hype. Try any one of these selections and I'm sure you will be pleased with your results.

# Tournament of Roses Parade - January 1, 2011

By Laurel Swanson, Consulting Rosarian

Well, the new year is upon us and Ron and I decided to celebrate our 45th wedding anniversary, which was Dec. 31st, with a trip to the Rose Parade in Pasadena, California. We signed up with our travel agent for a tour of the pre-parade preparation, the actual parade, and the after parade showing of all the floats.

We left on a Thursday and traveled for 5 ½ hours to Los Angeles. We took a shuttle bus to our hotel and rested in the afternoon. Later, for dinner, we attended a orientation night with information on which busses we would ride, where our parade seats were, and tickets for all events. The next day we ate breakfast (included in tour), then visited the area in Pasadena where the floats were getting their finishing touches. This was \$10 each but we had to go very early as there were many people there. We talked to the workers and saw all the flowers up close. We even signed a post card that went on the parade float and then was mailed out afterward. Floats average between \$400,00 and \$800,00 to rent for the parade and it takes a whole year of work to complete them even though the actual flowers do not go on until the week before

the parade. Most of the roses are delivered in from South America, Central America, Holland and Mexico. During the winter, California roses are still blooming but they are in their winter season and there are not many are available for the floats in the parade.

We ate lunch at a Farmer's Market, and walked the sidewalk of the stars in Hollywood, then spent the late afternoon at Universal Studio.

We went to bed early, as we had to be on the bus at 6:00 a.m. The parade started at 8:00. We ate breakfast at the hotel (included in tour) at 5:30 a.m. and rode about 3/4 of an hour from LA northeast back to the city of Pasadena. The actual parade tickets were \$88 each, but we had wonderful seats just after the corner where the TV cameras were. We were on the 11th tier so we were in perfect position to take pictures of all the floats and bands and see all the sights as well. There were at least 50 busses of people and later we found out over 1 million people were viewing the parade in person that day. It ran for over 5 miles and there were over 30 floats. It was amazing. Many of the people there were attending the Rose Bowl Game as well. I have never seen such an enthusiastic crowd at a parade. Everyone was just having a great time.

After the parade we returned to our busses and had a boxed lunch (part of the tour) and were then taken over to a park where the floats were on display. This was \$10 each, also. All afternoon we walked up and down the line and asked questions and got up close and personal to the floats. The workmanship involved was remarkable. Most of it was done by volunteers living in the surrounding areas.

The roses are put on the float by color and number codes like a paint by number activity. The Bayer float was called Camelot. It had 2 horsemen and a caste. Along one side was a display of Dick Clark, a rose which was introduced last year. There much have been over 100 of them in that one area. They were all perfect.

Later, we returned to our hotel and had a light supper on our own. As fortune would have it, we met another couple on the tour who were renting a car and returning to Pasadena the next day to visit the Huntington Gardens. They invited us to join them. This is a 150 acre botanical garden named after a railroad tycoon from the early 1900's. His family owned land, paintings, and rare books of extensive value and donated them to the public. They were on display

at Huntington Gardens. We saw one of the original Guttenberg Bibles along with Mark Twain's original writing and many other original works. There were many oil paintings done by very famous artists. We also walked through the largest rose garden I have ever been in. It was larger than Butchert Gardens in Victoria, B. C., which we visited a few years ago. Every rose was labeled. They had a extensive David Austin section with all of our favorites. They had an old garden rose area with so many titles it was amazing. Also, their hybrid tea, floribunda area was row after row of roses. They included many of the newer ones as well as lots of older well known varieties. Though all the roses were not in bloom, just seeing the layout and the superior selection was exciting for us. I recommend it highly to anyone visiting that area. The groundskeeper told me March is their first big flush and that is prime rose viewing season in California.

The next day we flew home. It was a very enjoyable trip and well planned by the travel group we went with. I recommend it highly, especially for rose lovers.



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