

PHOTO BY KITTY BELENDEZ



PEARL ESSENCE

# ◆ PACIFIC ◆ SOUTHWEST ◆ ROSE ◆



QUARTERLY BULLETIN ◆ AMERICAN ROSE SOCIETY ◆ PACIFIC SOUTHWEST DISTRICT

**Steve Jones, District Director**

**Spring 2003**

**Kitty Belendez, Editor**

PHOTO BY KITTY BELENDEZ



## MESSAGE FROM THE DISTRICT DIRECTOR

**Steve Jones**  
**District Director**  
**Pacific Southwest District**  
scvrose@aol.com

I hope everyone had a great holiday season and that you didn't spend too

much time in the doctor's office getting bandages from pruning roses such as Mermaid, Russeliana, The Garland, etc.

This marks my last year as your District Director, because I plan to run for ARS Vice President. In the first two years, we have accomplished a lot, but we need to go further. The first thing we need is a Judges school sometime in the spring. We have several judges and arrangement judges who need to take the exam. So if anyone is willing to put on a Judge's school, please let Frank & Cherrie Grasso know ASAP.

Congratulations to all the Bronze Honor Medal winners who were awarded by the various local rose societies! The Bronze Medal is a terrific way to honor your most dedicated members.

For those on the Silver Medal committee, make sure you get your votes in ASAP. We love to award the Silver Medal because we have so many deserving people. We have a short time frame this year so please submit your nominations and votes quickly to Dan Bifano.

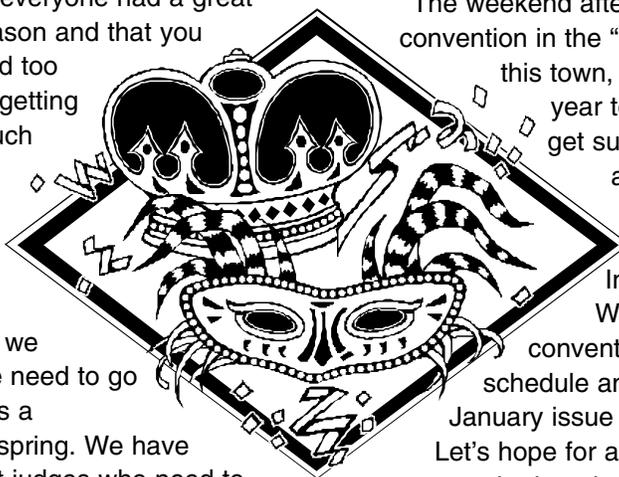
The spring will be busy soon enough with our roses bursting forward. I pruned my roses around Christmas and with the unseasonably warm weather I already have full leaves developed and six inches of new growth on some plants. At this rate I might be able to exhibit at the Arizona shows in early April.

Speaking of Arizona, make sure you attend the

District Convention in Mesa, Arizona April 10-13. As usual we will have our rose show, business meetings, and a lot of fun. You can download the form and schedule from the PSWD Gold Medal winning webpage. They are also included here in this issue of *Pacific Southwest Rose*. My good buddy John Mattia will be one of the speakers and the keynote speaker at the awards banquet. He is an awesome photographer and has raised roses and digital photography to a new level. Don't miss his talks.

The weekend after our District is the national convention in the "Big Easy" ... New Orleans. I love this town, usually stopping there every other year to relax and eat. Nowhere can you get such great food in the United States as in New Orleans. I can taste those muffulata sandwiches, and café au lait and beignets right now. Incoming ARS President Marilyn Wellan promises an excellent convention, so sign up today! A copy of the schedule and hotel information is in the January issue of the ARS magazine.

Let's hope for a great, rosey 2003, and may all of your roses be best in the show.



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PHOTO BY KITTY BELENDEZ

Louise Estes

## Calendar

**Saturday, April 5**

**Rose Society of Glendale AZ  
Rose Show**

Glendale Community College  
Info: Nancy Medved (623) 937-8740  
medved@grupo.com  
Dotty Ouimette (623) 583-7958  
neilndot@worldnet.att.net

**April 10-13**

**Pacific Southwest District  
Convention**

Hosted by  
Mesa-East Valley Rose Society  
Mesa, AZ  
Info: donainglsh@bigplanet.com

**April 19 & 20**

**San Fernando Valley RS  
Rose Show**

Descanso Gardens  
Info: Dennis Jackson  
(818) 345-4938

**April 17-21**

**ARS Spring National Convention**

New Orleans  
Info: Marilyn Wellan (318) 445-6006  
wellan@iamerica.net

**April 26-27**

**San Diego Rose Society**

76th Annual Rose Show  
Balboa Park Club  
Info: Dixie Dahl at (858) 453-4908  
Dixie4Roses@aol.com

**April 26-27**

**Pacific Rose Society Rose Show**

L.A. County Arboretum  
Info: crisgreen1@aol.com

**May 3-4**

**Kern County RS Rose Show**

First Christian Church, Bakersfield  
Info: Jim Turner (661) 833-6418  
jibeturner@aol.com

**May 3-4, 2003**

**South Coast RS Rose Show**

South Coast Botanical Gardens  
Palos Verdes  
Info: Gloria Leinbach  
coastrose@aol.com

**May 24-25**

**Albuquerque Rose Society  
Spring Rose Show**

Albuquerque Garden Center  
Kreg Hill (505) 345-1344  
kreg@swcp.com

**September 20-21**

**Albuquerque Rose Society  
Fall Rose Show**

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

**September 24-29**

**ARS Fall National Convention**

Washington, DC  
Info: jjmirilovich@aol.com

**VISIT THE  
GOLD MEDAL AWARD WINNING  
DISTRICT WEB SITE:**

**<http://www.geocities.com/pswdistrict>**

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## From the Editor's Desk

*By Kitty Belendez*



### Congrats to Our Bronze Honor Medal Winners!

Thanks to all those local rose society presidents who took the time to send photos and write-ups to me of their Bronze medalists. Many of the societies did not even respond to my e-mail asking for the names of their Bronze Medal winners, so I had to contact ARS for the names of all the winners in the PSWD. I tried to fit in as many as possible, but in the end, because of a shortage of space, I was only able to include photos of those winners who are subscribers to *Pacific Southwest Rose*. I did however include every write-up that was sent to me by the deadline. We are fortunate to have so many special people in the Pacific Southwest District.

### We Need Subscribers

Please encourage your rose society members to subscribe to *Pacific Southwest Rose*. We barely have 200 subscribers, just enough to qualify for our non-profit mailing status. This saves the district a lot of money. What would normally cost 60 cents first class mail (for 2 ounces), only costs us about 15 cents. All presidents, officers, consulting rosarians, judges and exhibitors should be subscribing to the district bulletin. Thankfully, most judges do subscribe. Sadly, only 50% of the local rose society presidents currently subscribe. Even worse, only about 30% of our consulting rosarians subscribe. The district bulletin provides all the news of the Pacific Southwest District. The cost is only \$10 per year, with four issues per year, published quarterly. This cost just barely covers printing and mailing. All graphics are done by me at no charge to the district. Checks should be made payable to PSWD, and mailed to Kitty Belendez, 21133 Kingscrest Drive, Santa Clarita, CA 91350.

### Have You Reserved Your Hotel Yet?

Looking on the web site of the Sheraton Mesa hotel really got me into the mood for the District convention this coming April. It really is a beautiful facility! April is one of the best times of the year to visit and enjoy the Arizona desert. Better make your hotel reservations early to make sure you get a good room at a very special price. It sounds like the convention committee has made some awesome plans for our visit.

**DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION OF MATERIALS FOR  
THE MAY ISSUE OF  
PACIFIC SOUTHWEST ROSE:**

***APRIL 15, 2003***

**Please send all materials to the editor,  
preferably via e-mail to: [rosextkb@aol.com](mailto:rosextkb@aol.com)**



PHOTO BY KITTY BELENDEZ

Golden Celebration

## 2003 DISTRICT CONVENTION, MESA, AZ

# Golden Celebration

*By Dona English*  
Convention Chairman

The Mesa-East Valley Rose Society invites you to attend the Pacific Southwest District Convention and Rose Show, to be held April 10-13, 2003 in Mesa, Arizona. Celebrating the 50th anniversary of the founding of the Mesa-East Valley Rose Society, the theme of the Convention is "Golden Celebration."

Mesa is located just minutes east of Phoenix Sky Harbor International Airport and is easily accessible via freeway. The host hotel for the Convention will be the Sheraton Mesa Hotel and Convention Center, 200 N. Centennial Way, Mesa. A welcome reception for convention registrants will be held poolside at the hotel beginning at 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, April 10th.

Friday morning brings the annual District Rose and Arrangement Show, which will be staged in the spacious Mesa Centennial Hall Convention Center adjoining the hotel. In addition to the District Challenge Classes, the rose show schedule will feature a complete range of classes for horticultural and arrangement entries. A cold storage area will be available for exhibitors as well as spacious indoor preparation facilities.

The preparation area for the rose show will open at 4:00 a.m. on April 11th and entries will be accepted from 6:00 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. Judging of the show is scheduled to begin at 10:00 a.m. and the show will be opened to the public at 2:00 p.m. following the Opening Ceremonies. Rose show trophies will be awarded following the opening of the show except for the District Challenge Trophies and the trophies for Queen and Miniature Queen of Show, which will be awarded at the District Awards Banquet on Saturday April 12th.

Friday evening features a tour and dinner at the Desert Botanical Garden, home to one of the world's largest and most diverse collection of desert plants. A stroll through the Garden's meandering trails will show how much life and beauty the desert holds. We will be visiting the "DBG" during the peak of wildflower blooming. The dinner will be held in the Wildflower Pavilion, with an open copper dome designed for star gazing. This will be accompanied by live music.

The one-third mile Desert Discovery Trail winds past thousands of plants, including more than half the cactus, century plants, and aloe species in the world. Short trails branch off to interpret other aspects of desert life: the uses of plants by people, interactions among plants and animals, desert wildflowers, and landscaping and

gardening in the desert. All the trails have interactive signs and guidebooks that identify and explain the plants and have been graded for wheelchair access. Lighting on the main trail and late closing hours allow for the unusual experience of strolling through the desert at night.

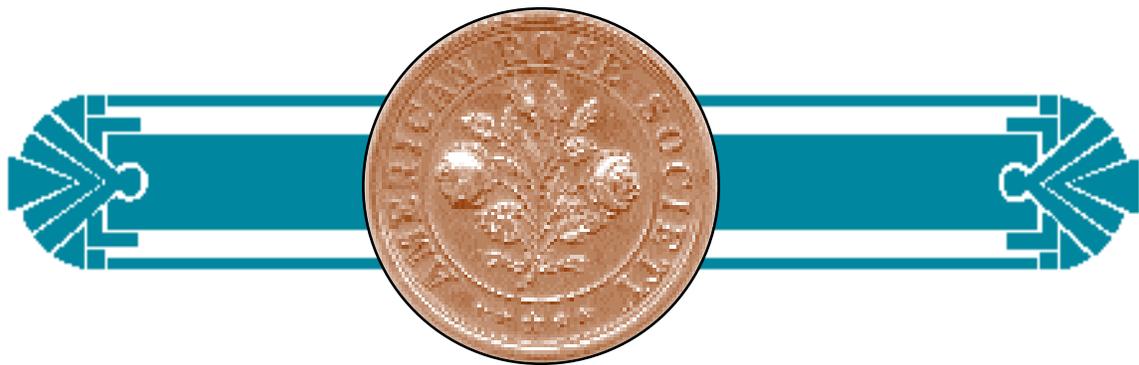
Saturday morning brings a garden tour of private Mesa area rose gardens, concluding with a tour and lunch at the Mesa Community College Rose Garden. Three private gardens on fully landscaped acres will include those of Barbara Schoenberg and Dona English, each with extensive collections of all types of roses, companion plantings and garden art. The new garden of Bob Martin, which includes transplants of the cream of his former Pasadena garden, has recently been added, along with two additional rose gardens each on half acre properties.

The MCC Rose Garden is the premier public rose garden in the Desert Southwest, featuring more than 26 free-form beds, two terraces and more than 5,000 rose bushes, representing over 450 varieties. All-American Rose Selections (AARS) has recognized it as both a test garden and a demonstration garden and in 2001 it received the AARS award for outstanding garden maintenance. The luncheon will be held in the new Veterans Bed area, with a Highland Pipe Band performance and welcome presentation by District leaders and MCC President Dr. Larry Christiansen.

On Saturday afternoon, there will be three sessions of informative and educational programs. At 2:00 p.m. amateur hybridizer Bob Martin, creator of 'Pasadena Star', will present a program on "Amateur Hybridizing." At the same time, local Master Gardener and rosarian Larry Bell will present a slide program in the theater on "The Year of a Commercial Rose Grower." The program follows the production of roses in the Phoenix area, an area which now accounts for over half of the U.S. commercial production of roses.

At 3:00 p.m., University of California entomologist, Baldo "Bugman" Villegas, will present a slide program in the theater on the latest in "Pest Control for Roses." At the same time, Shirley Dattilo and Sandy Miller will demonstrate their unique techniques for "Drying Roses for Arrangements." They will have their book and hard-to-find products available as well.

*Continued on page 10*



2002 LOCAL ROSE SOCIETIES IN THE PACIFIC SOUTHWEST DISTRICT  
**ARS BRONZE HONOR MEDAL WINNERS**  
*For Outstanding & Meritorious Volunteer Service  
To Their Local Rose Society*

**CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL!**

Albuquerque Rose Society  
*Carroll Sue Wagner*

California Coastal Rose Society  
*Harold Golden*

Desert Rose Society  
*Henry McCarty*

East County Rose Society  
*Miriam Yoder*

Fair Friends of Roses  
*Carrah Lanquist*

Glendale Rose Society  
*Nona Welsch*

Inland Valley Rose Society  
*Dick & Fran Kaelke*

Kern County Rose Society  
*Samuel T. Trivitt*

Los Angeles Rose Society  
*Norm Nelson*

Mesa-East Valley Rose Society  
*Rod McKusick*

Orange County Rose Society  
*Denise Pulley*

**Criteria For Selecting the  
Bronze Medal Winner**

1. Each Society, Chapter or Affiliate, in good standing with the American Rose Society, may annually award the American Rose Society Bronze Medal for Outstanding and Meritorious service at the Local Society level.

2. The recipient must be a full or associate member of the American Rose Society and an active member of the local society for no less than three years. Local Society membership must be verified by the Local Society.

3. If the selective recipient passes away prior to the medal being presented, the medal may be awarded posthumously to the deceased recipient's spouse or a member of his/her immediate family.

4. The current President of the Local Society is not eligible for this award. Furthermore, this award must not be offered as a prize in any rose competition, or for any one project.

5. The Executive Committee or Board of the Local Society will nominate the candidates. The members of the Executive Committee or Board will vote by secret ballot. The President will tally the votes. A majority vote will be required for awarding the medal. The result must be kept confidential by all members involved.

6. No award is required in any year.

7. Each Society can only award the Bronze Medal for Outstanding Service once to a member.

8. This is a Local Society award and must be administered and controlled by the Local Executive Committee or Local Board. This award will not require involvement from the District, Regional or ARS Board.

9. The Medal used for this Award shall be the standard American Rose Society Bronze Medal for Outstanding Service and may be procured from the ARS Executive Director. The cost of the Medal shall be borne by the Society making the award.

10. The Bronze Medal for Outstanding Service may be awarded jointly to husband/wife teams if, in the opinion of the Local Executive Committee or Board, they are deserving of the award and meet the requirements. In such case, two medals would be appropriate for presentation. Adopted by ARS Board of Directors, Spring 1993, Revised 1994.

Pacific Rose Society  
*Grace Seward*

Saddleback Mountain RS  
*Joe Foraker*

San Diego Rose Society  
*John Farleigh*

San Fernando Rose Society  
*Loren Zeldin*

Santa Barbara Rose Society  
*Ginny White*

Santa Clarita Valley Rose Society  
*Karen T.S. Gubert*

Temecula Valley Rose Society  
*Audry Nelson*

Tinseltown Rose Society  
*Dean Murakami*

Tucson Rose Society  
*Shirley Dattilo*

Ventura Rose Society  
*James Delahanty*

AZ West Valley Rose Society  
*Nelson Mitchell*

## ★ OUR SHINING STARS ★



**Norm Nelson** was awarded the ARS Bronze Medal by the Los Angeles Rose Society. This honor recognized his many years of unselfish, dedicated service and exceptional support with monthly raffles, rose show placements and special events assistance.

PHOTO BY KITTY BELENDEZ



**Karen T. S. Gubert** was awarded the Bronze Honor Medal by the Santa Clarita Valley Rose Society. Karen has served in many capacities during her six years of membership with the society, including two years as an enthusiastic Vice President of Membership, two years as a Director, Chairman of Security and Chairman of Clerks at our rose show. Karen has worked hard to become a CR.

**John Farleigh** received the Bronze Medal for long and dedicated service to the San Diego Rose Society. John was twice President of SDRS. He has been a Consulting Rosarian, Horticulture Judge, Arrangement Judge, rose show chairman and chairman of many rose show committees.

**Jim Delahanty** was awarded the Bronze Medal from the Ventura County Rose Society. He has been a member of the ARS for 10 years, a member of VCRS for six years, and a Consulting Rosarian for over four years. He has served two years on the VCRS Board of Directors, and has been elected president of the society for 2003.



**Miriam Yoder** was awarded the Bronze Medal by the East County Rose Society. She has been a very active member of ECRS for over 15 years. She is a Consulting Rosarian, Horticulture Judge, soon-to-be an arrangement judge, past President, past Rose Show Chair, and has held many other offices.

**Nona Welsch** was awarded the Bronze Medal by the Rose Society of Glendale, AZ. She has been a member of ARS since the mid 1980's, Charter Member of RSG, and has held many offices with RSG. She is a CR, Horticulture Judge, grows over 400 roses and is an avid exhibitor.



**Denise Pulley** is a two-term past president of Orange County Rose Society, Chairperson for the 2002 District Convention and a CR. She is a constant promoter of both OCRS and ARS. She was instrumental with establishing OCRS's connection with the Green Scene at Cal State Fullerton.

**Carroll Sue Wagner** received the Bronze Medal from the Albuquerque Rose Society. She is serving as Treasurer and maintains the membership records and a computer layout of the Albuquerque Rose Garden. She has participated in our rose shows in every capacity and presents educational lectures in the community.

**Loren Zeldin** was awarded the Bronze Medal from the San Fernando Valley Rose Society. He has been an enthusiastic member for many years, participating in all activities. He grows over 500 roses and provides tours of his garden. He willingly shares his knowledge and is a true asset to the rose society.



**Joe Foraker** was awarded the Bronze Medal from the Rose Society of Saddleback Mountain. Joe established the rose garden at the UCI Campus, near Barclay Theater, and the rose garden at the Mission Viejo City Library. He also founded the annual "hands-on" pruning clinic at UCI. He has been the 1st Vice President in charge of Programs for two years.

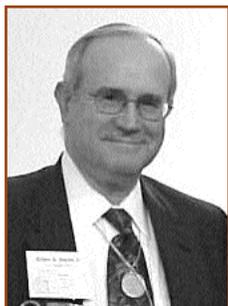
**Ginny White** received the ARS Bronze Medal for Outstanding Service to the Santa Barbara Rose Society. She joined the Society in the early 90's, and has been President for 4 years, Show Chair for 2 years and is always sharing her love of the rose with society members.

**Grace Seward** received the Bronze Medal from the Pacific Rose Society. She joined PRS in 1971 when roses stopped her in her tracks at the Huntington Hotel show. In the 1970's she became a Judge and CR and held many offices in Pacific RS and PSW District. In the 1980's, she served as District Director and was awarded the Silver Medal and later the Outstanding District Judge Award.

**Henry R. McCarty** was awarded the Bronze Honor Medal by the Desert Rose Society. He has served 18 years as a Consulting Rosarian, as co-chairman of the rose show for the past six years, past president, director, newsletter editor, and apprentice Arrangement Judge. Henry is always willing to share his knowledge and love of roses.



**Shirley Dattilo** is the Rose Society of Tucson 2002 Bronze Medal recipient. She is a Consulting Rosarian and past President. She has shared her skills on rose drying by writing articles and speaking at rose society and garden clubs throughout Arizona.



## CONSULTING ROSARIAN NEWS

*By Robert B. Martin, Jr.*

District Chairman of  
Consulting Rosarians  
PetRose@aol.com

The chart at the right sets forth my annual five-year running summary of the top exhibition roses in Southern California, incorporating the results of the 2002 exhibition season.

In the large rose category, 'Moonstone' moved into the top position. 'Crystalline', which had lost its position last year as the top exhibition rose after seven consecutive years at the top, held on to 2nd place. Last year's top exhibition rose, 'Natasha Monet' fell to third. 'Signature' moved up one position to 4th place, while 'Gemini' and 'Veterans' Honor' continued their upward climb, moving into 5th and 6th place respectively.

The biggest upward move was recorded by 'Kardinal', which went from 14th to 8th place. Last year 'Kardinal' had recorded the largest drop and its recovery was more attributable to weakness at the bottom of the list than a particularly strong year.

The largest decline was recorded by 'Spring Break', which scored no points for the year and was down six positions. 'Silverado' recorded a decline of four positions. There were two newcomers to the list, 'Cajun Moon' and 'Crowd Pleaser', which weighed in at the bottom. They replaced 'Plum Crazy' and 'Elizabeth Taylor' which both dropped from the list.

'Crystalline', with 29 points, led the 2002 scoring, followed by 'Gemini' with 27, 'Cajun Moon' with 24 and 'Moonstone' with 22 points. Six other roses recorded double figures, led by 'Veterans' Honor' and 'Signature', both with 19 points.

In the miniatures, 'Fairhope' had another strong year and continued in first place for the ninth consecutive year. 'Behold' and 'Miss Flippins' retained their 2nd and 3rd place positions. 'Glowing Amber' moved into the 4th position pushing 'Irresistible' into 5th place. 'Sam Trivitt', in its third year on the list, moved up six places from 12th to 6th. The biggest upward move, however, was recorded by 'Dancing Flame', which came from nowhere to debut in 10th place.

On the downside 'Hot Tamale' and 'June Laver' both lost four positions. 'Amber Star' was new to the list, while 'Heartbreaker' re-emerged at the bottom. 'X-Rated', 'Jean Kenneally' and 'Figurine' all dropped off the list.

For the 2002 season, 'Fairhope' recorded the most points with 51, well ahead of 'Sam Trivitt', which finished second with 41. They were followed by 'Dancing Flame' with 40, and 'Glowing Amber' with 30.

Points are tabulated for all Southern California Shows including winning roses entered by Southern California exhibitors in National Shows. Six points are awarded to a Queen, five for King and four for Princess. An additional three points are awarded to roses staged in the principal challenge classes of the District and National shows.

PHOTO BY KITTY BELENDEZ



Moonstone

## TOP EXHIBITION ROSES OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA FIVE-YEAR SUMMARY 1998-2002

PHOTO BY KITTY BELENDEZ



Fairhope

### HYBRID TEAS & GRANDIFLORAS

Rank/Name	Intro	Q	K	P	Pts	'02	'01	'00	'99	'98	
01	Moonstone	1998	13	7	7	147	22	32	26	39	28
02	Crystalline	1986	6	7	3	107	29	3	25	25	25
03	Natasha Monet	1993	6	6	5	101	5	18	17	21	40
04	Signature	1996	8	3	5	95	19	19	25	22	10
05	Gemini	2000	7	3	6	87	27	42	18	0	0
06	Veteran's Honor	2000	4	6	3	78	19	32	22	5	0
07	St. Patrick	1996	4	2	4	56	14	6	11	11	14
08	Kardinal	1986	1	2	4	53	14	12	17	7	3
08	Stainless Steel	1991	4	2	2	51	8	12	12	9	10
10	Louise Estes	1991	4	1	4	48	10	4	9	12	13
11	Lynn Anderson	1994	2	2	5	48	5	3	6	30	4
12	Spring Break	1993	2	3	3	48	0	13	3	13	19
13	Anastasia	1980	2	2	2	39	3	16	5	5	10
14	Silverado	1987	1	2	2	39	5	12	6	6	10
15	Lanvin	1985	2	2	1	38	9	10	6	4	9
16	Helen Naude	1992	0	5	0	31	5	8	5	0	13
17	Touch of Class	1984	1	0	3	30	7	0	0	10	13
18	Andrea Stelzer	1987	1	1	0	26	12	0	0	0	14
19	Cajun Moon	2001	1	2	2	24	24	0	0	0	0
20	Crowd Pleaser	2000	1	1	1	21	8	7	6	0	0

### MINIATURES

Rank/Name	Intro	Q	K	P	Pts	'02	'01	'00	'99	'98	
01	Fairhope	1989	14	13	8	208	51	29	56	42	30
02	Behold	1997	11	10	10	186	11	51	32	57	35
03	Miss Flippins	1997	14	11	5	186	3	33	54	60	36
04	Glowing Amber	1997	6	3	4	94	30	22	24	15	3
05	Irresistible	1990	3	7	7	87	13	27	9	16	22
06	Sam Trivitt	2000	5	7	2	76	41	19	16	0	0
07	Luis Desamero	1989	2	6	4	67	13	15	0	15	24
08	Kristin	1992	2	2	2	51	6	8	3	24	10
09	Incognito	1995	1	2	4	47	3	17	3	10	14
10	Dancing Flame	2001	2	4	2	40	40	0	0	0	0
11	Hot Tamale	1994	3	0	1	40	6	9	0	9	16
12	Child's Play	1991	2	0	0	39	6	3	9	9	12
13	Snow Bride	1982	1	2	2	36	8	3	3	6	16
14	Soroptimist Int'l	1995	1	2	3	28	5	5	18	0	0
15	June Laver	1989	1	2	2	27	9	0	0	9	9
16	Pucker Up	1983	1	2	1	26	3	4	3	10	6
17	Old Glory	1980	0	0	1	25	0	6	3	13	3
18	Scentsational	1995	0	0	2	23	0	0	6	13	4
19	Amber Star	2000	1	0	0	21	12	6	3	0	0
20	Heartbreaker	1990	1	2	1	20	6	5	0	5	4

# SOIL CRITTERS: BRINGING THE EARTH TO LIFE

*By Steve Jones*

Most people are not aware that there are literally millions of “critters” in each gram of soil, which equates to about a good pinch of soil. These “critters” are bacteria, actinomycetes, fungi, yeasts, protozoa, algae, and nematodes. They are microscopic organisms that live in the soil. It sounds terrible, but we exist today because of them. They are what give the soil life, which is necessary to grow plants, the backbone of our existence.

Each has a unique function and they exist in most soils. For sterile soils, or ones with low activity, you can actually replenish these bugs, but it is not cheap, and they will do so naturally in the right conditions which will be discussed later in this article.

**Bacteria** are the most common microorganism. They are found in the top foot or so of soil, and survive most conditions. Of all micro-organisms, bacteria comprise about 70 percent of the total. There are approximately 3 to 20 million bacteria in that gram of soil. Bacteria are important because they feed on organic matter, help with decomposition to return nutrients to the soil, assist in the reactions of materials which will make them available to the plant, especially nitrogen, and fix nitrogen from the air. Without bacteria, plants could not absorb nitrogen, and therefore will not survive. Most of these bacteria are harmless to humans.

**Actinomycetes** are rod-shaped bacteria that are saprophytes, those who live off, or gain nutrients from decaying matter. The antibiotic Actinomycin is obtained from these soil bacteria. There are about 1 to 20 million actinomycetes per gram of soil which makes up about 13 percent of the total soil organisms. Their main function is to help with the decomposition process and in the process, liberate carbon, nitrogen and ammonia, and help form humus.

**Fungus** is among us. It is true, in the air, water, plants, and in the soil. Fungus helps break down organic matter. There are between 5,000 to one million fungi per gram of soil which is about 3 percent of the total organisms in soil. The most important fungi are the mycorrhizae. These fungi collect on the roots of the plants and form a symbiosis relationship with the plant, where they “live” off each other without harm to either host. The fungus lives off nutrients in the plant, and provides greater surface area for the plant to absorb water, air, and nutrients. You

can purchase mycorrhizae for poor soils, however, it is not cheap and they will form naturally.

**Yeasts** are present in minor amounts in the soil, from 1,000 to one million per gram of soil. They are generally found around the plant root areas. Their actual function is unknown.

**Protozoa** are the regulators of the bacteria population. They are present in all soils and there are less than 1/2 million of them in most soils.

**Algae** are present in about the same levels as the protozoa. They are generally in the top portions of the soil and assist in fixation of nitrogen in the air.

**Nematodes** are basically small worms. Some are good and others bad. In Florida, a type of nematode invades rose plants, therefore roses are grafted onto Fortuniana rootstock which is resistant to nematodes. However, most soils have good nematodes. They also assist in the breakdown of organic material and they help keep down populations of grubs and termites. There are 10 to 5,000 nematodes per gram of soil.

The ideal soil should contain about 5 percent or more of organic matter. The importance of organic matter is to increase soil organisms, thus making soil more plant friendly, and help grow better roses. With low organic matter soils, bacteria and earthworm activities are poor, and with that, the plant will not have enough nutrients available for growth. If you have a low organic matter composition, add more compost to the top 4-6 inches of the soil. To go from a 2 percent to 5 percent organic mixture in your soil, you need to add about 2,000 pounds of compost per 1,000 square feet and work it into the top 4-6 inches of the soil. 2,000 pounds of compost is about 2 cubic yards, which is about two tractor scoops from a local soil company.

When you add more organic material to the soil, you will also raise the pH of the soil, in other words, more acidic. This is good for our area since we tend to have slightly basic soil. To find out what you have in your soil, do a soil test. The first is pretty easy. Scrape off your mulch cover and take soil samples from different parts of your rose bed. Take a small handful and place in a large jar with a lid. Add water to about 3/4 full, and shake vigorously. The soil particles will drop out depending on the size, rocks, then sand, then silt, then clay, then organic material. The organic material may also float. You can get an approximate idea of how much organic matter is in your soil.

The best test is to send a soil sample to a lab for full analysis. A full test will tell you everything about your soil including levels of nutrients and pH. Most labs will analyze it for rose growing and tell you how much of what to add to your soil, if necessary. A full analysis will run around \$25 per sample. It is worth the price.

*This article is an American Rose Society Award of Merit winner. Originally published in the February 1998 issue of “Rose Ecstasy,” bulletin of the Santa Clarita Valley Rose Society, Kitty Belendez, Editor.*



## ARRANGEMENT JUDGES NICHE

*By Kreg B. Hill*

District Chairman of  
Rose Arrangement Judges

Marylou Coffman wrote the schedule for the upcoming District Rose Show in Mesa, AZ on April 11,

2003. There are a couple of modern design classes that have been specified in the schedule: a Transparency Design and a Hanging Design. In order to increase the number of entries and for the arrangers to understand these designs, the following information is provided.

### SECTION A

Pacific Southwest District Challenge Arrangements

(Open Only To ARS Members

Residing in the Pacific Southwest District)

**John and Dorothy Van Barneveld Arrangement Trophy**

#### Class 1. Dreams

A modern transparency design using arranger-grown roses.

*According to Guidelines for Judging Rose Arrangements:*

**Transparency.** A three-dimensional design where some components are seen through other transparent components. Naturally transparent materials may be flower cluster, trimmed foliage or artfully placed plant material. "See through" manufactured materials are often used.

Transparency designs must include see-through element(s), which permit some components to be viewed through others. Some other natural transparent plant materials: skeletonized foliage, branches, sea fans, open weave grasses, gypsophila (baby's breath), etc. Transparent man-made materials: acrylic, glass, mesh, screening, open-weave fabric, grillwork, etc. Planes and forms are juxtaposed by overlapping, giving a three-dimensional effect of depth and space. The only plant material restriction is that the roses must be arranger-grown. The other plant materials may be fresh or dried or a combination of the two. Remember that this is a creative design, so look around and see what you can see through to incorporate into a design!

### SECTION C – ARTIST'S

#### Class 5. It Came from Outer Space

**A hanging design.** Free moving design using a frame or other suspension.

*According to Guidelines for Judging Rose Arrangements:*

**Hanging Design.** Free moving design using frame or other suspension.

This design must be suspended in space by using a frame or other suspension. The frame need not be square

or rectangle; it could be any shape – round, oblong, triangle, etc. Other suspension could be anything that has an arm or aperture that extends outward to hold the hanging design. The free-hanging design is created to move freely in air currents of the staging area. Suspended from a hook, within a frame or other suspension by wire or heavy-duty filament. For best viewing, the design should be hung at eye level or slightly above. It may consist of two or more designs used together to create a single, unified design and may have one or more moving parts. The only plant material restriction is that the roses must be fresh and outdoor garden grown. It would be well advised to experiment with your hanging design before taking it to the show to make sure that it will really hang!

The Mesa District Show also has Court of Etiquette Classes:

### SECTION O – COURT OF ETIQUETTE

**(Table Designs:** The design components must include fresh roses and may include other fresh and/or treated plant materials.)

#### Class 26. Golden Anniversary

A functional, semi-formal table for two for an evening dinner, with a decorative unit. To be staged on a 30" round table provided by the rose society. Please do not display any flatware. Reservations must be made with show chairman prior to the show.

#### Class 27. Golden Celebration

A semi-formal exhibition table, with a decorative unit, to be staged in an area no larger than 30" wide by 30" deep. Please do not display any flatware. Exhibitor must provide their own free-standing background. Reservations must be made with show chairman prior to the show.

### SECTION P – MINI COURT OF ETIQUETTE

(The design components must include fresh roses and may include other fresh and/or treated plant materials.)

#### Class 28. Barbie Doll

A functional breakfast tray for one, with a decorative unit. Do not display any flatware. Reservations must be made with the show chairman prior to the show.

*A couple of tips about Court of Etiquette:*

A functional table is an exhibit arranged for the service of food. The decorative unit (flower arrangement) should be no larger than one-third of the total area. One should be able to see over the decorative unit if seated! Don't get carried away with too many components. Simplicity is better than clutter. The table must be for two and there are no restrictions as to the type of design. It could be modern, traditional or oriental manner. Items should be placed in such a manner that they could be easily used or picked-up without knocking one of the other items over, i.e. place cup handles so that you do not have

*Continued on page 9*



Van Barneveld Arrangement  
Shown by Tee Bower  
at 2002 PSWD Convention

## ARRANGEMENTS *Continued from page 8*

to turn the cups around to pick them up. Don't put small glasses behind large glasses. Look at your placement to make sure that everything is functional!

An exhibition table is an artistic display. It is totally non-practical, but it is a display of elements suggestive of serving a meal. Basic requirements are a dish for food, a vessel for drinking and a rose arrangement. Any other components are elective. Exhibition tables are not functional but allow that dishes may be stacked, more than one napkin used, and glassware and other appointments may be grouped or presented in creative ways – more a fantasy interpretation than just serving a meal.

**Mini-Court of Etiquette:** The decorative unit must use miniature roses and must not exceed 10 inches in height, width or depth. All the other components should be in proportion and scale to the decorative unit. The last edition of the *Pacific Southwest Rose* had an article about trays. Please refer to that article. (The same article will be in the Winter Edition of the *Rose Arranger's Bulletin*.) All the information applies to Mini-Court of Etiquette with one exception – the size of the decorative unit. For all the arrangers traveling to Mesa – it is easy to transport the miniature dishes!

If you have any other questions about the District Rose Show Schedule or any other arrangement questions, please do not hesitate to contact me. If you would like to judge the Mesa Show, please contact me at (505) 345-1344, or e-mail kreg@swcp.com. Remember, I expect all the Judges to enter the Judges' Classes. Even if your roses are not blooming, there are always extra roses in the prep room. Looking forward to seeing all the great arrangements in Mesa!

## SOCIETY GEMS

**Santa Clarita Valley Rose Society** awarded Life Membership to Steve Jones in honor of his founding the club 10 years ago ...

**Los Angeles Rose Society** bestowed President-Emeritus as well as Life Membership to Kitty Belendez in honor of her 17 years of dedication to LARS ... **Pacific Rose Society** had another successful

rose auction with Chris Greenwood coordinating the event by getting 500 bareroot donations from commercial rose growers, and Cal Hayes as the auctioneer ... **Ventura Rose Society** also held their

annual rose auction in January with Bob Martin flying in from Arizona to serve as their auctioneer ... **Desert Rose Society** will have

Vincent Gioia as their guest speaker in March. Vincent is ARS past-president (1984-86) and is a retired patent attorney ... **Mesa-East**

**Valley Rose Society** is busy preparing for the Pacific Southwest District convention ... **Rose Society of Glendale** (AZ) will hold the

first rose show of the 2003 season on April 5th ... **San Fernando**

**Valley Rose Society** held their annual public pruning seminar at Sepulveda Gardens on January 4th ... **Orange County Rose**

**Society** hosted their annual pruning demo at the UC Irvine Chancellor's Garden ... **San Diego Rose Society** hosted their 5th

Annual Rose Care Seminar on November 30th and had a record-breaking attendance of 191 enthusiastic rosarians ... **Scottsdale**

**Rose Society** reports that Arveda Larson won the "Ray Allen Education Award," and Shirley Datillo was presented with the "Rosa Gallica Award" for outstanding contributions toward the advancement of roses in Arizona. Both were presented at the Arizona Rose Societies Annual Banquet hosted by the **Tucson Rose Society**.

## 6TH ANNUAL ARRANGEMENT WORKSHOP AND SEMINAR

**March 15, 2003**  
10:00 A.M. to 3:00 P.M.

Ventura Fairgrounds (Seaside Park)  
Ventura, California  
Floriculture Building

**Topic:** Modern Arrangements

**Bring:**  
Warm Clothes, Clippers,  
Large and Small Containers.

**We will provide:**  
Oasis, flowers, coffee,  
muffins and lunch.

**Send \$20 to:**  
Barbara Schneider  
253 McKee Street  
Ventura, CA 93001  
Deadline for registration is  
March 10, 2003

**For more info call:**  
Barbara Schneider or Sue Diller  
(805) 648-7322



Large Modern Arrangement  
Shown by Carolyn Buman  
at Desert Rose Society

## Golden Celebration *Continued from page 3*

At 4:00 p.m., noted national exhibitor John Mattia of Orange, CT will present a program titled "The Quest For Ultimate Beauty," a digitally illustrated program on exhibiting intended for beginning and intermediate rose exhibitors. In addition, Jeff Wyckoff, Pacific Northwest District Director, will share his program entitled "Floribundas, a Digital Presentation."

The gala District Awards Banquet will be held Saturday Night in the Convention Center Palo Verde Rooms. The program will include remarks by Dr. Tommy Cairns, President of the American Rose Society, and from Steve Jones, Pacific Southwest District Director. John Mattia will present a special program titled "Digital Art Rose Stories," which he describes as a "fast-moving digital presentation on how common rose photos when combined with other types of photos are uplifted into works of digital art."

The Convention will conclude on Sunday morning with the District Breakfast and Meeting in the Sheraton Hotel Grand Ballroom. During and following the Convention, many other local attractions are available for individuals and groups. These include the adjacent Mesa Amphitheater, which is hosting a Southwest Shakespeare production each night, nearby antique shops, the renowned Mesa Southwest Museum and the Champlin Fighter Aircraft Museum. A pleasant morning drive to the Superstition Mountains can also take you to the Boyce

Thompson Arboretum State Park, Arizona's oldest botanical garden. Visit the Mesa AZ Convention and Visitors Bureau for further ideas and information at [www.mesacvb.com](http://www.mesacvb.com).

The Sheraton Mesa Hotel and Centennial Hall Convention Center is located in the heart of the East Valley. It has 273 spacious, newly renovated guestrooms, all of which feature in room movies, dataports, oversized desk, ergonomic chair and other amenities. A special block of rooms has been reserved at the convention rate of \$101.00 per

night plus applicable taxes. The rate is guaranteed for one to four persons per room. Reservations must be made by Thursday, March 15th for the special convention rate. For reservations, call: 480/898-8300, or toll-free 800/456-6372.

Please visit the District or MEVRS websites for updates and additional information, as well as the "Golden Celebration" Rose Show Schedule. The full schedule may be accessed at the PSWD District website:

[www.geocities.com/pswdistrict](http://www.geocities.com/pswdistrict). All updates and the schedule will be posted on the website of the Mesa-East Valley Rose society at [www.roses4az-mevrs.org](http://www.roses4az-mevrs.org).

For further information, please contact Convention Chair, Dona Inglish at [donainglish@bigplanet.com](mailto:donainglish@bigplanet.com)



PHOTO BY KITTY BELENDEZ

## THE JUDGES GAVEL *By Frank & Cherrie Grasso* District Hort. Judges Co-Chairs

Another new year and another PSWD Convention. We received so many requests to judge the Mesa, Arizona District Convention being held April 10-13, 2003 that we were overwhelmed. We wish to thank you for your prompt response and support and are looking forward to judging this show.

We are still looking for a society that would like to host a Judging Seminar or School. If your society is interested please let us know as soon as possible. Attendance at a Seminar or School every four years is a requirement for all judges to attain their ARS Certification. We presently have a number of judges whose requirements must be met in 2003. We keep a complete record of all judges' next audit year. If you do not know when your next audit year is due please check with us.

### Judges Court:

The answer to the question in the last issue:

*How do you judge for the best horticultural entry in a show?*

Since there are no written requirements for best horticultural it is up to the hosting society to set forth the requirements for their show. If none are given then a judge can subjectively pick the one they like.

### Now for the next question:

*Why is it recommended that a written ballot be used when judging the Court of Honor?*

### *We can be reached as follows:*

Frank & Cherrie Grasso  
2235 Tierra Verde Road  
Vista, CA 92084  
(760) 727-2436  
E-mail: [RoseWizz@aol.com](mailto:RoseWizz@aol.com)



## COMBINED ROSE LIST

It's time to reserve your copy of the 2003 Combined Rose List (CRL) which will be available in March. This 224-page, soft-cover book is compiled and edited by Beverly R. Dobson and Peter Schneider and contains listings of over 11,000 roses and nurseries throughout the world. Information is updated through February 1, 2003 and includes rose registrations, correct classifications, and current North American and overseas nursery sources for all roses in commerce. It's the best source for hard-to-find roses and tells you exactly where to find them. The CRL is highly recommended as a reference manual for all ARS Rose Judges and Consulting Rosarians. Send \$20 check (includes postage) to: Peter Schneider, P. O. Box 677, Mantua, OH 44255. Or you can buy it online at: [www.combinedroselist.com](http://www.combinedroselist.com)



IRENE WATTS

## PACIFIC SOUTHWEST DISTRICT ROSE SOCIETIES & THEIR PRESIDENTS

### GREEN VALLEY RS

Rosemarie Beall  
P. O. Box 309  
Green Valley, AZ 85622  
(520) 393-7063  
rbeall6670@aol.com

### INLAND VALLEY RS

Teresa Hull  
14673 Deep Creek Court  
Chino Hills, CA 91709-4775  
(909) 393-2431  
hulltalkinc@aol.com

### INVITATIONAL RS

Samuel T. Trivitt  
7017 Elias Avenue  
Bakersfield, CA 93308-2039  
(661) 399-7185  
Roses-P10@worldnet.att.net

### KERN COUNTY RS

Betty Wachob  
3324 La Cresta  
Bakersfield, CA 93305  
(661) 392-8418

### LAS CRUCES RS

Tom Heilpern  
792 Warm Sands Ct.  
Las Cruces, NM 88011  
(505) 522-5580  
RDHNM@aol.com

### LAS VEGAS VALLEY RS

Stephen Schneider  
8 Brandermill Drive,  
Henderson, NV 89052  
(702) 435-8923  
SAS546@AOL.COM

### LOS ANGELES RS

Phil Anderson  
6647 Arthur Court  
Chino, CA 91710-5740  
RunnerandRoses@prodigy.net

### MESA/EAST VALLEY RS

Jim Kichefski  
5134 S. Morning Sky Trail  
Gold Canyon, AZ, 85218-5886  
(480) 288-5218  
jimalki@aol.com

### ORANGE COUNTY RS

Tom Cooney  
38 Diamondgate  
Aliso Viejo CA 92656-1910  
(949) 362-2710  
tcooney8@cox.net

### PACIFIC RS

Evelyn Reed  
10623 Las Lunitas Avenue  
Tujunga, CA 91042  
(818) 434-6507  
EvelynReed@attbi.com

### PHOENIX RS

Joanna Chamberlain  
526 East Wesleyan Drive  
Tempe, AZ 85282  
(480) 967-7001

### RIVERSIDE RS

Linda Sun  
10062 Hedrick Ave.  
Riverside, CA 92503-2378  
(909) 688-4907  
lsun@occourts.org

### SADDLEBACK MOUNTAIN RS

Bonnie Andrew  
307 Camden Place  
Laguna Beach, CA 92651-1425  
(949) 494-2697  
YMaRose@aol.com

### SAN DIEGO RS

Steve Berry  
3888 Pringle Street  
San Diego, CA 92103-2724  
(619) 549 0840  
seberry@cox.net

### SAN FERNANDO VALLEY RS

Katie Shanks  
20751 Bassett Street  
Winnetka, CA 91306-3304  
(818) 704-0337  
katiesrose@yahoo.com

### SANTA BARBARA RS

Susan Scott  
3744 Gregory Way #4  
Santa Barbara, CA. 93105-4068  
(805) 682-0846  
susanscott1@mindspring.com

### SANTA CLARITA VALLEY RS

Karen T.S. Gubert  
28029 Wildwind Road  
Canyon Country, CA 91351-1270  
(661) 252-6996  
gubers@socal.rr.com

### SANTA FE RS

Shelby Green  
12 Elk Circle  
Santa Fe, NM 87506  
(505) 983-9683

### SCOTTSDALE RS

Jeannine P. Byrnes  
11602 N. Sundown Drive  
Scottsdale, AZ 85260  
(480) 948-6772  
neenbyrnes@qwest.net

### SOUTH COAST RS

Lesley Smith Bruns  
28151 Highridge Road #52  
Rancho Palos Verdes, CA 90275  
(310) 377-6682  
lesleymsmith@hotmail.com

### SUN CITY ROSE & GARDEN CLUB

Homer McCarthy  
11207 N. 109th Avenue  
Sun City, AZ 85351  
(623) 933-0370  
shirdel@juno.com

### TEHACHAPI RS

Robert Hedlund  
22601 Camp Drive  
Tehachapi, CA 93561  
(661) 823-9475  
HedSchmidt@yahoo.com

### TEMECULA VALLEY RS

Walt Kilmer  
40648 Chantemar Way  
Temecula, CA.  
(909) 693-5568  
originalsbydiana@juno.com

### TINSELTOWN RS

Alice M. Hart  
12236 Magnolia Blvd.  
Valley Village, CA 91607  
(323) 877-2376  
foodforfilm@pacbell.net

### TUCSON RS

Elizabeth Strong  
441 E Wine Plum Drive  
Tucson, AZ 85704  
(520) 797-7890  
lizzie1@mindspring.com

### VENTURA RS

Jim Delahanty  
4118 Saugus Avenue  
Sherman Oaks CA 91403-4403  
(818) 789-4821  
jjzdelahanty@earthlink.net

### WASCO RS

Marlea Wagner  
P O Box 91  
Wasco, CA 93280  
(661) 758-2971  
mdgeorge@earthlink.net

### YAVAPAI RS

Stirling Daykin  
1096 Pine Country Ct  
Prescott, AZ 86303-6402  
(928) 771-0470  
phildaykin@commspeed.net

### 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.



FAIRHOPE

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**Kitty Belendez, Editor**  
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## PACIFIC SOUTHWEST DISTRICT OFFICERS & COMMITTEE CHAIRS

### DISTRICT DIRECTOR

**Steve Jones**  
25769 Miguel Ct.  
Valencia, CA 91355-2144  
H: (661) 254-7741  
W: (909) 396-2094  
Fax: (909) 396-3867 (24 hour)  
Fax: (661) 254-5881 (by appt.)  
scvrose@aol.com

### VICE DISTRICT DIRECTOR

**Dr. Bill Christensen**  
P O Box 6408  
Albuquerque, NM 87197-6408  
(505) 345-1344  
kreg@swcp.com

### SECRETARY

**Marylou Coffman**  
213 N. Riata Street  
Gilbert, AZ 85234  
(602) 926-3064  
coffmanml@aol.com

### TREASURER

**Chris Greenwood**  
1029 Woodland Lane  
Glendora, CA 91741-3669  
(626) 914-7585  
Crisgreen1@aol.com

### ARS NATIONAL NOMINATIONS PRIZES & AWARDS

**Dan Bifano**  
710 Palermo Drive  
Santa Barbara, CA 93105  
(805) 682-8048  
dbifano@silcom.com

### HORTICULTURE JUDGES

**Frank and Cherrie Grasso**  
2235 Tierra Verde Rd.  
Vista, CA 92084  
(760) 727-2436  
rosewizz@aol.com

### ARRANGEMENT JUDGES

**Kreg Hill**  
P O Box 6408  
Albuquerque, NM 87197-6408  
(505) 345-1344  
kreg@swcp.com

### DISTRICT NOMINATIONS

**Lou Pavlovich**  
2049 E. Ninth Street  
Tucson, AZ 85719-4912  
(520) 743-1438  
lou@baseballnews.com

### EDITOR & EDUCATION

**Kitty Belendez**  
21133 Kingscrest Drive  
Santa Clarita, CA 91350  
(661) 296-5033  
Fax: (661) 257-3596  
rosextkb@aol.com

### ROSES IN REVIEW

**Dona Inghish**  
4659 E. Glade Circle  
Mesa, AZ 85206  
(480) 807-3475  
donainglsh@aol.com

### PARLIAMENTARIAN

**Leah Watterberg**  
1615 Adelita Drive NE  
Albuquerque, NM 87112  
(505) 299-8517  
jandlwatterberg@compuserve.com

### GARDENS

**Donna Banovich-Pybus**  
8002 N. 14th Avenue  
Phoenix, AZ 85021  
(602) 997-1787  
bpybus@speedchoice.com

### CONSULTING ROSARIANS

**Robert B. Martin, Jr.**  
3645 E. Park Avenue  
Gilbert, AZ 85234-4344  
(480) 558-3224  
petrose@aol.com

### TROPHY REVIEW

**Lillian Biesiadecki**  
1527 Anita Lane  
Newport Beach, CA 92660  
(949) 650-0946  
biesrj@worldnet.att.net

### HISTORIAN

**Cheryl Hume**  
2395 N. Leonard Lane  
Las Vegas, NV 89108-3004  
(702) 255-2686  
Cherylhume@aol.com

### BYLAWS

**Alan Troyer**  
13317 Desert Flower NE  
Albuquerque, NM 87111-5509  
(505) 299 9590  
troyer@swcp.com

### WEBMASTER

**Glenn F. Fiery, Jr.**  
mtnskier@earthlink.net