

# Queensland Rose Bulletin

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This Bulletin may suggest some controls for pests and diseases. This does not mean endorsement of a particular company's product. The suggestions are intended as a guide only and the choice or controls is yours. The information is gained from sources we deem reliable. However, we cannot guarantee its accuracy, and interested persons should rely on their own enquiries.

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## In Memorium: Frank Benardella

July 5, 1932 - January 30, 2010

Frank Benardella was known to many as "The Picasso of Miniature Roses" for his endless number of miniature roses of stunning colours across the palette. To his family and friends he was "Rose Man."

Frank planted his first rose garden in 1956. He joined The American Rose Society in 1958. Frank became an avid exhibitor, winning most National trophies several times. Won Mini Queen at the All Mini National Show in 2003. As an ARS judge, he assisted in the writing of the Judges' Manual. He became a Consulting Rosarian and won the Outstanding Consulting Award in 1964. Frank was the Penn-Jersey District Director, later he became the Region O Director. From 1977 to 1979 he was the President of The American Rose Society.

He is a Member of the Order of Blue Noses. Member of the International Order of the Golden Rose. Developed the miniature English Box. Printed the first miniature



entry tags. Started the ARS slide contest. Developed the Palette class for roses. Lectured and judged rose trials around the world.

He is best known as the hybridizer of 10 Award of Excellence winning miniatures.

He was also hybridizer of the cut-rose 'Zebra', the first striped HT produced by cross pollinating. Frank received the American Rose Society's highest award – the Gold Medal.

His approach to creating Miniature roses involved making at least 50 crosses with the pollen from a parent plant, using a Hybrid Tea

with excellent bloom form, into a proven Miniature seed parent that readily sets hips.

Frank's background as an exhibitor assisted in his rise to fame as a hybridizer as his keen exhibitor eye looked for those miniature seedlings with classic HT form. This is the characteristic that stands out in nearly all of his miniature successes.

Frank has been an inspiration to me in my own efforts to breed new roses. I made significant numbers of crosses with his roses this year. Roses of his creation in our garden are: Figurine, Ruby, Pearl, Waltz, and New Hampshire. As I have started looking for space to put in my new creations, Toni told me there would never be any reason I could give to pull out Figurines. It is my loss that I didn't get the opportunity to meet Frank in person. Rose growers the world over are saddened by his loss. Our thoughts are with June and his family at this time. His memory will live on in our gardens.



Figurine (pic from our garden)



Benardella's Pearl



Benardella's Ruby



Top: New Hampshire  
Bottom: Waltz

Photos Courtesy Treloar Roses



## Sunburn and Roses

Paul Hains, Mt Gravatt East, Queensland

We did a silly thing this year and cut Toni's garden back too early. Due to being away over Christmas and our busy work schedules the garden had gotten away from us.

We went out with the intention of a deadhead, that turned into the summer prune, but around a month earlier than we normally do. Usually we time this to coincide with flowering in time for the shows but didn't worry about timing this year... oops.

What happened then was we had a string of hot sunny days and the rose stems that had been protected by excessive foliage became exposed to the harshest elements they could.

Many of the bushes that had the most foliage protection before the prune got sunburnt. Sunburn on a rose, you say? Think of the leaves as sunblock.

Ok, I still absolutely advocate a summer prune as this brings a new flush forth in Autumn. The timing for our climate is late February or early March (sorry for you Northern Hemisphere readers). For the last 2 years we pruned on the second week March.

Sunburn can cause the loss of plants altogether. In some instances it appears as dead branches or a blackened spot on one side of a branch. If a plant is too heavily burnt it

may die or lose vigour completely and never come back.

The burning in our garden ranged from minor to severe. I have already removed a bush of Perfume Perfection. We have a series of other bushes that will be replaced in Toni's garden by some of my exhibitions down in my garden at the front.

If you get sunburn on any of your bushes, monitor them and make sure you keep up the water to them. They may come back strong and may only require removal or trimming back of the effected branches.

## Rose of the Month – Moonstone



Name: Moonstone (WEKcryland)

Introduced: 1988 USA

Hybridizer: Tom Carruth (Weeks Roses)

Type: Hybrid Tea

Parentage: Crystalline x Lynn Anderson

ARS Colour: White

Blooms: 34-42 petals

Fragrance: Mild Spice, Tea Fragrance

Moonstone has been a favourite of ours and has won many championships for us. We have 8 bushes that usually produce about 30-50 flowers in a flush. We have used them as wedding flowers for friends and they hold their form nicely and last well in a vase. Mostly disease resistant although some blackspot and leaf drop as per almost all our bushes in late January when it pours rain non-stop for two weeks.

## The ABC's of Rosarians

Constance Vierbicky, Master Consulting Rosarian, Bradenton-Sarasota Rose Society, USA

*"Their gardens are predominantly disease free as they work many long hours to achieve outstanding roses"*

Recently, a novice rosarian came to my house with lots of questions about rose growing. Her enthusiasm at gain-ing accurate knowledge to grow her bushes the best way possible really blessed me. Outside of growing a beautiful garden for the sake of my family, friends, and rose garden tours, I think **rose education** is my favorite aspect of this passionate hobby. I am sure it stems from my 35-year career as a high school teacher. After she left, I heard the bell ring for

the end of the school day at Riverview High School (I live only a few blocks away). Very happily retired now, I began to reflect back on my teaching days and my thoughts turned to the school's grading scale: the letter grades students earned. Then, an idea began to parallel that in the types of rosarian efforts I have encountered over the years. I'd like to share my observations and see if you see somewhat of the same thing in fellow rosarians. For example: a ro-

sarian whom I consider to earn an "A" letter grade in effort is definitely an exhibitor. Their gardens are predominantly disease free as they work many long hours to achieve outstanding roses to show. They are also very passionate about learning every minute detail that could improve their growing practices and help them to have the most beautiful roses in the show. They are usually the strong backbone of most rose societies because they are a



# The ABC's of Rosarians cont...

Constance Vierbicky, Master Consulting Rosarian, Bradenton-Sarasota Rose Society, USA

wealth of cutting edge information on rose growing, as well as the newest varieties to grow and show. They willingly volunteer for almost anything to communicate their love for the rose within the community and the local society. They are frequently the president or newsletter editor, faster than a speeding bullet on the Internet for communication with other cyber rosarians, and know most every important website concerning roses. They also hold positions of rank within the district and national rose affiliated committees. They are the champion workhorses of rosarians in my opinion.

I consider myself a "B" rose grower. I can do all of the above but not to the perfection of a consistent exhibitor. My garden is beautiful but you will see black spot definitely there when I go to visit my grandbaby in Charlotte, NC, which is frequently! My interest at disbudding is not paramount, but I definitely want the ability to show when I can. I do my best to keep up with my garden, putting in many hours in spite of my heavy work load (when I worked!). Being retired now, there are only a few weeds in my garden to compete for the fertilizer. My rose growing on a large scale gets costly, so I want my investment to pay off with beautiful roses for many purposes. I am privileged to be on garden tours for rose societies, so I must be doing something right. However, I do not have the passion to commit the hours that it takes to be a good rose exhibitor, and that's what makes the difference between a good rose grower and a champion.

The next group of rosarians I considered would be the "C" group. These are definitely the

people that think I am nuts to be out there in the 95 degree heat making sure my roses have enough water. They plant roses, occasionally fertilize, prune, and maybe even go to a rose society meetings when they can. Their focus is to have lovely roses to be enjoyed by whomever, but that is not the highest priority on their doing life list. They share roses readily, but because of many factors including family, work schedules, health etc., they cannot nor do they want to invest the time to grow those queens. We all have priorities and they change throughout our lives.

The "D" people who grow roses are those who DO NOT like gardening. Weed pulling is abhorrent to them, and they cannot be bothered with all that has to be learned to grow a rose in Florida. Down here, it is not a process of stick-ing a piece of rose wood in the ground and just waiting for nature to do the rest. Knowing what to do for a year round growing season is a must. But, then again, they might buy some roses for someone special and they do appreciate the beauty and fragrance of the rose.

Now you might ask, "Who is the person who receives an F grade?" Well, it's not as bad as you might think. It is a person who *fails* to grow roses. They have other talents that the Creator has given them and they are using them. For me, it would be exhausting if everyone grew roses. I mean, how would I get over to see all their lovely gardens? It could become so routine that I might lose my enthusiasm. I readily understand that there are many factors that prohibit people from growing roses because of time constraints. I

did not grow roses until I was in my forties because of my work schedule, having to raise three children, and caring for a two-story house. But a hobby for me was nearly impossible until my children reached high school age. I guess that is one reason why you do not see as many young rosarians as we would like in our rose societies.

Just as my former students test grades sometimes fluctuated, so do rosarian's efforts sometime fluctuate depending on circumstances. Some seasons I might even get an "A" grade for my efforts. Time cannot stand still for anyone and many brilliant, emeritus rosarians have ceased to grow roses, but will always have their good grade status grand-fathered in my mind.

I do see great differences in the efforts of individual rosarians. However, it makes no difference how much or how little time that you have to devote to this hobby of ours, you are a vital part of this wonderful society of rosarians. I know that enthusiasm is catchy and hopefully you will encourage many people to join our community club of rosarians. No matter where you are in roses today, there will always be willing teachers to help you grow those gorgeous roses. If the Lord wills, I will be around a long while to be one of them. Have an awesome, rose growing year fellow rosarians! In rose petals forever,

The Rosequeen.

*Reprinted from "The Bulletin"  
Bradenton-Sarasota Rose Society,  
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# Hybridizing Photos

Paul Hains, Mt Gravatt East, Qld

I know this is two pages, but it has been a while, so you get lots of pictures.



*Moonstone X Honeybee  
Mini-Flora sized flower*



*Moonstone X Marilyn Monroe  
Large HT fade resistant yellow*



*Scarlet Mimi X City of Newcastle  
Mini-Flora sized flower*



*Above: Seedlings in 8" Pots; Below: 2010 Hips*



*Moonstone X City of Newcastle  
Very Large HT with 74 petals*



*Ruby X Melinda Gainsford  
Mini-Flora sized flower*



*Figurine X Melinda Gainsford  
Mini-Flora sized flower*



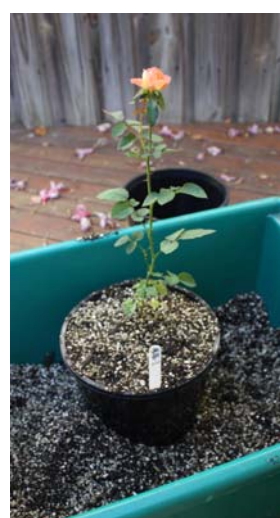
*Henri Matisse X Scarlet Mimi  
Frilly Petalled Floribunda*



*The above flower budded onto multi-  
flora understock*



*The trolley got too small. You can  
make out the old tropical garden in  
the background that is now gone.*



*Potting up with my premixed  
50/50 growing medium*



*The two flowers above are the same  
plant. The first was in the 3" pot,  
the second is in the 8" pot with  
fertiliser. Gold Medal X Playgirl*



# My Hybridizing Progress

Paul Hains, Mt Gravatt East, Qld

I have been travelling a lot with work and busy with my seedlings when I am home (and spending time with my wife, Toni) so I haven't put a Bulletin out in a while.

People have been asking about my seedlings and whether I have any nice flowers, what they look like, etc... so I have included some photos for you.

We recently embarked on a process of looking at houses on acreage to enable large areas for potted seedlings and for my seed raising benches along with space to plant budded roses out in the garden for trial.

This idea has passed as we have pulled out a tropical garden bed at our existing property to allow for around 100 pots to be positioned (see photo). I have also given up showing roses to do breeding so I have designated a lot of my former champion winning roses for removal to make space for planting by new unnamed varieties.

Don't cry, but I am removing many Tineke, St Patrick, Peter Frankenfeld, Kardinal, Gold Medal, New Era and Seduction, along with about 20 minis. They are heading to my parents to their acreage and

allow for my pollen collection. Mum enjoys taking my left overs. If Toni's mum is lucky I will send her home with some champion bushes when they look after out house in winter as we head for the snow.

I have culled about 400 seedlings this year with about 200 more to be culled in the coming month or so. I was kind and waited until they showed the second or third flower if they showed any potential early on. The diseased ones got removed very early. I had a set of foam boxes I kept putting rejects in as I couldn't bring myself to kill them straight away. Toni would get upset with me when I would select something I liked from the rejects pile and pot it up to further evaluate.

The next stage is potting them up in 200mm (8") pots. I use a potting mix incorporating fertiliser (Searles Peat80) mixed 50/50 with medium grade vermiculite. The slow release fertiliser in the mix gives the seedlings a boost and the vermiculite ensures drainage. I don't get paid for this advert, but buy the potting mix retail at the local hardware store. I found a wholesaler for the vermiculite which helped a lot.

I have also started budding

some of my more promising flowers onto multi-flora understock. These bushes will then be planted for further evaluation. Rob Bell in his writings noted that roses can give different blooms and growth when budded onto rootstock. This will be another lesson to learn for me.

I have started harvesting hips and have 1,400 seeds already. My estimate is that I will have about 5,000 seeds which means 2000+ seedlings. ☺

Bev requested that I include the parentage, unless it was a trade secret. So I have added them to the photos. For those from overseas, the Honeybee I refer to is an un-registered seedling by Eric Welsh, an Australian breeder. City of Newcastle=Veteran's Honour, and Melinda Gainsford=Anne Morrow Lindberg.

The Australian Rose Breeders' Association has launched it's new website. I still have to finish a few pages, so bear with me as it grows over the coming weeks.

<http://www.arba.rose.org.au>

*"Toni would get upset with me when I would select something I liked from the rejects pile and pot it up to further evaluate."*

