

Know, Grow and Show

by Pam Powers, CR and Chairperson for ARF Rose Show & Photography Contest

On June 7 & 8, Arlington Rose Foundation growers shared their mastery of growing great roses through a diversity of rose and photography exhibits for public display at Merrifield Garden Center. The two day event showcased our passion and talent through a friendly competition by our many members.



The Back Story

The phone calls, e-mails, garden visits and questions two weeks before the rose show were fast and furious. Members new to exhibiting were planning to put their growing skills on exhibit at Arlington Rose Foundation 58th Rose Show & Photography Contest. Exhibit they did. Of the 51 awards, 36% were awarded to new or relatively new exhibitors!

To take the nerves out of exhibiting, ARF's top flight coaches who are award winning exhibitors like Bill Blevins, John Smith, Rick Brown and Pam Powers helped members through team coaching at a mini practice show. For some, one-on-one coaching in their rose garden in the weeks prior to the show was helpful. At the show, Bill assisted the novices while John helped everyone else!



Highlights of Arlington Rose Foundation Exhibitors and Their Roses

Flashlight in hand, Angela Lungu was out before 5 am the morning of the show cutting her roses. A fan of old garden roses and David Austin roses, Angela captured two awards, Best Novice Single Bloom with **Julia Child** where there were 16 entries and Most Fragrant OGR or Shrub with **Jude the Obscure**. As a first time experience, Angela exclaimed, "what a fun way to meet other rose growers and learn more about your own roses! Bill Blevins was so knowledgeable, everyone was so helpful." Now, she vows to cut a day earlier for the District show in Richmond. My prediction is she will be hard to beat in the categories she chooses to enter.



Rebecca Peterson set out to improve her rose growing techniques this year. She came to the pruning demos to learn, applied the right fertilizers, sought exhibiting advice before the show and beat out the competition for Best Modern Shrub with a lovely **Graham Thomas**.

George Carneal, a member and excellent grower since the 1960s, exhibited for the first time and won an award for Best Grandiflora Spray with **Cherry Parfait**. Everyone was thrilled that you finally competed, George!



Mary Arnhold won Best Novice Spray with **Julia Child** and her son Chris won Best Junior Spray with **Sexy Rexy**. Mary looks forward to our spring show and sandwiches it in between Chris' softball games and her daughter's dance recital that tend to fall on the same busy weekend. All of us are proud of both of them!

Amy Kemp from Clarksville, Maryland, one of the "famous Park sisters of the rose world" won her first awards with a graceful cycle of bloom with **Tropicana**. It is not an easy category to do. You must prepare and cut for the stages of bloom with three roses, one exhibition, one full open stamens showing and one buds, petals

beginning to unfurl. She also won the public vote for Best Fragrant Hybr1id Tea with **Sugar Moon**. It is so engaging having attendees vote with their nose! In my opinion, they picked the right rose.

Noemi Vayra who graduated from novice status last year, made the award table with three mini blooms of **Kormisso**. Initially, they were tight blooms but she followed John's instructions to open the blooms and her roses looked just like miniature **Hot Princess**. Likewise, another novice graduate from last year, Steve Sparks who exhibited with Sharlie Eaton, won several awards. Their nicest award, I thought was a Hi-Lo with **Elina** and **Sunsplash**. It was refreshing that they go for the challenge classes. My good friend and neighbor, Sandra Friend goes for the Court of Honor win. She continues winning with her miniature rose, **Bees Knees**, this time for miniature King.



Consulting Rosarian Bill Toth dominated with two Queens, Hybrid Tea with **Hot Princess** and Mini-Flora with **Whirlaway**, plus an assortment of nine other awards, including a stunning collection of three **Hot Princess** and Best Floribunda Spray and Single Bloom with **Golden Holstein**. Growing about 60 rosebushes, Bill really appreciates the beauty of an opening bloom and tries different techniques to yield the perfect bloom. About the 2014 show, Bill said, "what a great way to spend the day! Seeing so many new exhibitors display and share their roses is invigorating,"



Dave Maxwell made a great showing, winning the Dowager Queen with **Blush Noisette** and several other classes. Obviously, Dave applies his soil and fertilization research assiduously in his own garden.



Jan McKibben gleefully prepared her roses, winning with Best Miniature Spray with **Bees Knees**. Jan explained "I love to clerk at ARF's show, it helps me learn and I like seeing the roses placed on the awards table. I get so excited when it is one of mine."



Octogenarian Desmond Sheehan put together a classy award-winning English box. You don't often see the combination of **Elina, Touch of Class and Elegant Beauty**. His daughter, Catherine, an avid gardener from New Jersey, assisted Desmond as he also won Hybrid Tea Prince with **Touch of Class** and Best 3 Hybrid Tea blooms- Red collection with **Let Freedom Ring**. Desmond was so excited to find out



the results that it was a pleasure to chase him out of the judging area a couple of times!

For the second year in a row, Charlie Brannon won the photography category with **Signature**, topping 54 competitive entries. He also helped others get their photos in the right category during the show preparation and then took many photos of the show. His son Gavin and Alyssa Mercier, two juniors and budding exhibitors, were excited over their wins, but tried to keep it cool for the cameras.

Closing Thoughts

For a complete listing of exhibiting results, please see the enclosed 2014 Arlington Rose Foundation Rose Show & Photography Results or go to our website: www.arlingtonrose.org. Thank you to all that made the show possible: Exhibitors, volunteers, donors, advertisers, Merrifield Garden Center, Judges, coaches and attendees. Our members' interest in rose culture creates positive energy that is exciting and greatly appreciated. I hope you will bring both your blooms and energy to our District level rose convention in Richmond on October 4- 5. Join John Smith, Bill Blevins, Rick Brown, Bill Toth and me to exhibit or take some awesome rose photos at Lewis Ginter rose garden.

