The Rose Vine

Penn-Jersey District of the American Rose Society's quarterly newsletter

A Great Year Ahead



Rusty '83

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Please note the early hotel reservation deadline for the Winter Rose Get-A-Way is January 13, 2009



Iced Dublin Bay photo by Kevin Glaes

12/20/08

2009 holds the promise of a busy and fun year for rosarians. The Winter Rose Get-A-Way starts our year off and it promises to be one of the best yet. A nice group of speakers plus the two candidates for ARS Vice President will be there so you can meet and get to know them. There will be plenty of time to yak about roses with all the people from across the district.

March brings us the Philadelphia Flower Show and a great opportunity to stroll through all the displays and competitions and get a sense of what the world outside will look like in a few months. I always think of it as "June in March."

All of us should be attending and participating in our local rose society meetings in March, April and May as well as getting the rose beds off to a good start.

June of course is rose show time and there are plenty of shows to keep us off the streets and out of trouble for the first half of June. Make a point to take blooms to at least one show this year. The blooms look much better on the show table for the public to see than hidden away in your back yard.

July brings the special treat of another Mini National Show sponsored by the York Area Rose Society. This was a great event the last time around and should be every bit as good this year. Even if you are bloomed out in July, you should make it a point to go to the show. The many people from around the country whom you will meet and get a chance to talk to is worth it.

September means District Rose Show and Convention always a great time among your friends from around the district and another chance to enter blooms in a show.

This all adds up to a great year ahead. So get out and tend your roses and participate in all the activities. Remember, it doesn't happen without *you!*

Kevin

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From the District Director's Desk

Happy New Year!

This will be short – I have had my grandchildren here for four days – a wonderful way to spend the holidays, but I am exhausted! Digging in the garden is easier. I look forward to the arrival of some new roses in April. I was ruthless last fall and dug out many weak bushes that should have been shovel pruned years ago. I am still on a campaign to reduce the number of bushes, but I just had to have a few new ones. I also have to replace several that succumbed to "missing root syndrome" – I have an aristocratic family of voles who dined on Queen Elizabeth and Royal Highness.

First, I hope I will see many of you in Lancaster next month for the Winter Rose Getaway. In case you did not receive the registration information by email, it is included in this newsletter.

Reminder – at the Get-A-Way, Penn-Jersey will be electing our District Member of the National Nominating Committee/District Awards Chair for the term that begins in September since the election results must be sent to ARS Headquarters long before our next district convention. Nominations for this office must be

received by Gus Banks by February 14th. For more information, contact Gus at irsvrose@verizon.net.

Attention – All Society Presidents.

- 1. Please send me the information to go in the Directory ASAP. I am trying to have it available at the Winter Rose Getaway. eadler@westtown.org
- 2. Since the ARS has gone to a bimonthly magazine, some of our societies are having difficulty getting announcements of rose shows in the magazine because of stringent cutoff dates. Starting with the April issue, Penn Jersey will list all the District shows and contact information in the RoseVine on a regular basis. As we are now sending the RoseVine to all ARS members in Penn Jersey, this should help. We will try to include information on shows in our neighboring Districts which may be of interest to our members as well. Send the information to Kevin Glaes, kevyg@frontiernet.net.

Elaine



"Get your sled and come join me at the Eden Resort and the Penn-Jersey District Winter Rose Get-A-Way"

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Winter Rose Get-A-Way Weekend

Our 2009 Winter Rose Get-A-Way Weekend will meet on February 13, 14 and 15 at the Eden Resort Inn in Lancaster, PA 717-569-6444. Please make your reservation before January 13th.

Our morning programs will start with Bill Kozemchak talking on California rose gardens. This will be followed by Robert Martin "Horizon Roses 2008." It is an educational program on the publication *Horizon Roses* featuring killer pictures of the newest of the new roses. Pat Bilson's arrangement workshop "Playing with the DUKE" will end the morning session. This program is described below.

After lunch on your own our afternoon begins with Stacey Catron telling us about rose growing in Australia. Jolene Adams program on "Tigers in the Garden" will be about the progeny of *Ferdinand Pichard*. and striping in roses - how and why it happens. She will share a short list of roses with stripes before the modern era and the huge success of using *Ferdinand Pichard* to bring striping into the modern gene pool.

Our last program for the afternoon will be Kevin Glaes sharing his observations about the impact of Knockout. Tom Mayhew and Bruce Monroe will then announce the winners of our photo contest. In the evening after our banquet Robert Martin will talk on Weird Rose Science.

This year on Sunday after the Penn-Jersey District business meeting, the candidates for ARS Vice President, Robert Martin and Jolene Adams will answer our member's questions about their plans for the ARS. I am asking that you send your questions to me at jrsyrose@verizon.net. This way we will avoid duplicate questions and get a good cross section of our members interests,

Both Friday and Saturday nights our great hospitality room, run by Mary and Bill Slade, will be open.

I am looking forward to this weekend of rose fellowship. I hope that you will attend this great rose weekend.

Gus Banks

For all arrangers and interested persons

Design workshop at the Winter Rose Get A-Way "Playing with the DUKE"

Fee - \$5 to help cover the cost of flowers – see registration form on the next page

What to bring – A container of your choice, larger than 3 inches but no larger than 5", clippers, newspaper to cover the tables, and some line material if you have it. Pieces no longer than 18"

We will be talking about the DUKE arrangements which can be a style of your choice, traditional, modern, or Oriental. Your container should reflect the style you wish to do. After a brief talk about what to look for, you will do your design and ARS design judges will walk the room and discuss them with you. If you are staying for the dinner, we would like to use them as table decorations.

All are welcome to attend, if you wish not to do a design, you can just watch

If the Japanese are so clever with language, how come they named it "ikebana"? Couldn't they come up with something better like "yummybana"?

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WINTER ROSE GET-A-WAY WEEKEND REGISTRATION:

Reserve rooms directly with Eden Resort Inn, 222 Eden Road, Lancaster, PA 17601. Phone 717-569-6444. Rates are \$98.95/room/night (up to four people per room). Mention **the PA/NJ District America Rose Society** meeting to get the special room rates. **Reserve rooms by Jan 13, 2009!!!**

	Registration – Wi	nter Rose Get-A-V	Vay Weekend o	on Feb 13–15, 2009)
Name(s):			Phone:		
Address:_					
City:			State	ZIP	
e-mail:					
Registration	on	\$ 10.00 each	\$		
Arrangem	ent workshop	\$ 5.00 each	\$		
Dinner (Saturday)	*	\$30.00 each	\$		
	Stuffed Chicken Breast	\$28.00 each	\$		
	Total Amount Enclo	sed	\$		

Make check payable to **Penn-Jersey District** and mail to Pat Bilson, 127 Gable Road, Paoli, PA 19301



"Look Ma, here comes the ferry to take us to Lancaster and the Winter Rose Get-A-Way."

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2009 ARS Elections

The year we will be electing a new ARS Vice President. The person elected will become the President of the American Rose Society in three years. We have two very capable candidates this year. Both will be at our Winter Rose Get-A-Way where you will have ample opportunity to meet and talk with them. I asked both to send a biography for publication. Below are the biographies they sent. Kevin



Jolene Adams

Jolene Adams has been growing roses since her teen years when she helped her mother and grandmother in the garden of her childhood home. She and her husband Jacob Oberlies presently tend 150 roses of all types on a small city lot in Hayward, CA.

Jolene has served two terms as the Northern California-Nevada-Hawaii District Director of the American Rose Society and is a member of the ARS Executive Committee. Currently she is a member of the ARS Horticultural Judges Committee, the Strategic Planning Committee, the Bylaws Committee, the Program Services Committee, and has been the chair of the E.Rose Committee (for 15 years). She has also served on numerous other ARS Committees, including the Local Society Relations Committee, the Year of the Rose Committee, the Newsletter/Bulletin Committee, and was active in the production of *Modern Roses XI*. She is

also the webmistress for the ARS web site at www.ars.org.

She is a leader in her District, in her local rose societies, in the world of roses in her area. She is on the Board of the California Garden Club Inc. as the Rose Chair, she edits the Alameda Co. Master Gardener web site with horticulture articles for 'Over The Fence'. She is a proactive District Director and since she was elected the District has won several honors that ARS can give - Best District Web Site, Best District Bulletin, a continual high percentage of responses for Roses in Review. She was the original web master for the award-winning District web site: www.ncnhdistrict.org.

Jolene is also active in the international world of roses. She was the first webmaster for the WFRS web page and has attended several World Federation of Rose Societies Conventions - twice as the ARS Delegate to various standing committees. She has judged at the Tokyo Rose Show, Hampton Court Rose Show, and at several international rose trials.

She writes articles for local and District society newsletters, the CGCI Roses newsletter, local newspapers, the American Rose magazine and the Annual, as well as for web sites around the country. She is a versatile speaker with programs for Judging Schools, CR Schools, society meetings, District Meetings and American Rose Society Conventions. Her emphasis is on education and open communication on all subjects.

Jolene is an ARS Master Rosarian, an ARS Horticultural Judge and an ARS Consulting Rosarian, as well as a Master Gardener. She has been honored by three local rose societies who awarded her the ARS Bronze Medal for service to the local society. Jolene has received Presidential Citations from Pete Haring, Jim Hering, Tommy Cairns, Marilyn Wellan and Steve Jones. She was named Outstanding District Consulting Rosarian in 2000.

More information on Jolene's candidacy for ARS Vice-President is available at www.jolene4vp.com

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Robert B. ("Bob") Martin, Jr.

Robert B. ("Bob") Martin, Jr. has been growing roses for over 35 years. He and his wife Dona recently moved from Gilbert, Arizona to Escondido, California, where they are planning a new rose garden. In Gilbert they maintained a rose garden of 400 roses of all types from modern hybrid teas to an extensive collection of shrubs, polyanthas and OGRs.

Bob has served as the Pacific Southwest District Director of the American Rose Society and a member of the ARS Executive Committee. Currently he is a member of the ARS Horticultural Judges Committee, the Library Board and the Funds and Grants Committee. He has in the past served on numerous ARS Committees, including six years as Chairman of the Horticultural Exhibitors' Committee, the National Prizes & Awards Committee, the American Rose Editorial Advisory Committee, the On-Line Committee, and the Local Society Affairs Committee.

Bob and Dona were the guest editors of the 2006 American Rose Annual. Bob has served as editor of the ARS quarterly Rose Exhibitors' Forum for eleven years and is the national editor of Horizon Roses. He is also the author of the book "Showing Good Roses" and over 500 published articles on roses, including nine articles for the American Rose Annual. Bob maintains a website of rose show results at www.roseshow.com.

Bob is well known as an effective speaker and rose evangelist, having spoken at 15 national conventions, at district conventions in 11 different districts and at rose societies throughout the U.S. Bob's message is straightforward – "Yes, you can grow roses."

Bob is an ARS Master Rosarian, an Accredited Horticultural Judge and an Accredited Arrangements Judge.

Bob was the recipient of the 2007 ARS Guy Blake Hedrick Jr. Award. He has also been awarded the ARS Silver Honor Medal from the Pacific Southwest District, as well as the Bronze Medal from two local rose societies.

Bob is an active rose exhibitor at the National, District and local levels. He is also a hybridizer with eight registered varieties, including the show roses 'Pasadena Star', 'Butter Cream' and 'Peter Cottontail'.

More information on Bob's candidacy for ARS Vice-President is available at www.bobmartinarsvp.com



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Hey, Dirt's Dirt, Right?

By Kevin Glaes

The new season is fast approaching and we will be fielding many questions from people who are just starting out with roses or want to grow better roses. The question of soil always comes up (or if it doesn't, you should bring it up.) If we read the Consulting Rosarian Manual or attend one of the Consulting Rosarian schools, we read or hear "tell them to get a soil test." So that's what I do and from about mid-April to mid-May, people come to the local society meeting with their results in hand or call on the phone and ask "What do all these numbers in the report mean?"

On page 9 is a result sheet from my garden for 1 bed in 2005. I will discuss this report in detail but first I want to give you a few points about roses and soil. The best article I ever read on rose soil was in the 2004 American Rose Annual. Don Julien wrote an article entitled "Building a Soil Community for Roses." I have asked the ARS for permission to reproduce this article as a pdf. I will place it on the PJ website on the RoseVine page (www.pjdistrictrose.org.) This article is great reading!

In the article, Don describes where roses (species) fit into the natural succession of plants over time. Starting with bare fields (say, after a fire) the succession pattern is from annual plants to perennial plants and grasses to shrubs to softwood trees to hardwood trees (over a long period of time, naturally!) Roses fit into the shrub succession.

I remember, when I lived in western Montana, I always looked forward to Rosa Woodsii blooming in the summer on the edges of clear cuts and among the younger pines where harvests of the older trees had taken place. I was always interested in seeing how long it would take R. Woodsii to establish once the older "useable" trees removed from an area. Many younger trees 20 to 30 feet high were left, but there was enough sunlight reaching the ground for the roses to find a place.

During the shrub succession the soil undergoes an interesting transition. In the early periods of

annuals and then perennials, the soil begins to accumulate a growing bacteria population. These tend to give the soil a high or alkaline pH. As shrubs begin to move in, they colonize areas and, because they are deciduous, the leaf litter begins to build up microflora (fungi) which drives the pH down below the neutral (7.0) point. These fungi are good guys, not the fungi like blackspot that we abhor.

So not only does a pH between 6.0 and 7.0 provide the best overall availability of essential nutrients, it is necessary for the soil community that roses need. See page VI-6 of your *Consulting Rosarian Manual* for a graph of the relationship between pH and nutrient availability. If you would like a copy of the manual, go online to the ARS Store where you can purchase one (www.ars.org.)

Now we don't want to have to plant roses out in a field and just wait for years for this transition to take place, so we purchase or make the soil for our rose beds, striving for a good pH and organic mixture right from the start. Page V-2 of your Consulting Rosarian Manual shows the Clay/Sand/Silt triangle for determining the percentages of each needed to make a good soil. I make my own soil using 30% sand, 30% topsoil, 20% compost and 10% clay.

I live on old farm land that is naturally clay loam so I have all the clay I need. I purchase screened garden soil by the yard from local nurseries and I get the sand by the yard from a local building supply company. (It helps to have a pickup and strong back to do it this way!) The sand should be "sharp." When you rub it between your hands, you should feel the abrasion. The sand sold as "play sand" in 40 pound bags is too fine and will not do the job. Sand is necessary to provide large particles that help maintain space for air and drainage, keeping the clay and organic matter from compacting and creating an impenetrable mess.

Starting with a good soil mixture is very important. We should be planting roses with the intent that they will be in that spot for many years. (Then why

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am I always moving roses around the garden each spring and fall?) Over time, the organics in the soil mixture will be used up and must be replaced. We are not growing annuals or vegetables here, so we can't just dig up the plants and till in more organics in the fall like I do in my veggie plot each year. The only way to keep the organic matter at a good level is to mulch with it and rely on nature to keep working it down over time.

There are some good commercial compost products on the market (the best I've seen so far in my local nurseries is called *Gardener's Gold* in 2 and 3 cubic foot bags) but they are too expensive for me to use because of the large amounts I need, so I make my own. I have a large area behind the house where I can do this. I have easy access to large amounts of oak leaves and I have way too much grass to cut (yes, I need more roses so I can get rid of the lawn mower!) So what should be a good compost for roses?

Don's article discusses the types of organic matter to add to soil and what would be the best carbon to nitrogen ratio (C:N) for your compost. It appears that a C:N of 24:1 to 27:1 is best for roses. Again, refer to Don's article for a chart that gives the C:N for various materials. This is just a brief synopsis of Don's article – please read the article for all the depth it will give you on this subject.

OK, back to the soil test. We have established the need to know the pH of the soil which we get from the soil test, but what else? The report will have an analysis of Phosphate, Potash, Magnesium and Calcium with fertilizer recommendations. For the basic test, Penn State does not measure Nitrogen as it is a given that nitrogen moves through the soil fairly quickly so a "one-shot" analysis of nitrogen will not be very meaningful. You can have the perform nitrogen content analysis for an additional fee.

The soil test kit from Penn State costs \$9.50 and is available from you local County Extension Agent. It costs about \$1.50 to mail the test to State College. I have been told that youse in New Jersey have a very similar program with Rutgers. The test kit has good instructions on how to get and handle the sample. A bag for mailing is included. You can get more in-depth analyses for, naturally, a higher

cost. The results I get from the basic test satisfy my needs.

The part of the results that I pay special attention to are the percentages dealing with the Cation Exchange Capacity numbers. I want to see a number above 15 in the CEC box which tells me that my soil has a good amount of organic matter and can hold the cation (pronounced cat ion) nutrients. For a good discussion of these, see the Inside Roses articles by Dr. Gary A. Ritchie in the March/April 2008 and the May/June issues of the American Rose Magazine. This sample was from a bed I built in the fall of 2004 and let the soil "mellow" over the winter. I get my soil mixture right and then I till in cottonseed meal, alfalfa meal and Sul-Po-Mag. I also add dolmitic limestone to the mix as my compost generally has a low pH. The high pH on this test (7.2) is probably a result of that and doesn't concern me too much as the pH will be down in the 6.5 range by May. But I will keep an eye on it to make sure it does come down.

I do have a pH meter that I am always using in the rose beds. In fact, I have two. I use the Kelway meter from Rosemania (www.rosemania.com) for my beds most of the time and one of the \$17.00 - \$19.00 meters that you can purchase at local nurseries which I take with me when I am visiting somebody's garden. It is much easier to recommend a \$17.00 pH meter than a \$69.00 one and I feel it is more likely that they will pick one up if they can find it at their local nursery.

One thing that is interesting in this report is the level of potash. I always see the phosphate and calcium levels in the soil tests from this area in the "above optimum" range. If I took a sample from a field that had been fallow for three or more years, it would come back with high levels of phosphate and calcium. It is just the nature of the soil in these parts. I have learned over time that adding potash to the soil here is very necessary. As I stated earlier, I till in Sul-Po-Mag when I built this bed but the potash range is only in the optimum range. So I do use Sul-Po-Mag during the growing season and then give the roses one to two tablespoons of potash (0-0-50) in October to help "harden" the roses for winter.

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PENNSTATE



(814) 863-0841

Fax (814) 863-4540

Agricultural Analytical Services Laboratory The Pennsylvania State University University Park PA 16802 http://www.aasl.psu.edu

SOIL TES	ST REPORT F	OR:		ADDITIONAL COPY TO:				
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		The state of the s	COLINERY		Charles and the Control of the Contr			
DATE	LAB#	SERIAL#	COUNTY	ACRES	FIELD ID	SOIL		

SOIL NUTRIE	NT LEVELS	Below Optimum	Optimum	Above Optimum
Soil pH				
Phosphate	(P_2O_5)			
Potash	(K ₂ O)		Lateral Company of the Company of th	
Magnesium	(MgO)			
Calcium(CaO)			

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR: Roses-maintain

Limestone, Calcium And Magnesium Recommendations

Apply the following quantities of limestone, epsom salts and/or gypsum to the soil to correct soil pH, calcium and magnesium levels.

Calcitic Limestone:

NONE

(0-3 % Mg)

Magnesium: NONE

Gypsum (CaSO₄): NONE

Nitrogen, Phosphate And Potash Recommendations

Apply 0.5 lbs per 100 square feet of UREA.

MESSAGES

The above lime and fertilizer recommendations are for this soil sample and this season only. Nitrogen, phosphate and potash recommendations are for fertilizers containing specific ratios of nitrogen (N), phophate (P_2O_5) and potash (K_2O) . As an example 5-10-10 contains 5 % N, 10 % P_2O_5 , and 10 % K_2O . If fertilizers with the ratio(s) shown are not available, contact your local garden center or fertilizer supplier for the appropriate substitution.

The Cation Exchange Capacity (CEC) is the capacity of the soil to hold positively charged cation such as K+, Mg ++ and Ca++. If the CEC of your soil is less than 15.0 (see laboratory results below) add one inch of organic matter. If soil pH is greater than 7.0, use acid peat moss as the organic matter source.

pH is high. Use sulfur (see Table on back of report) to lower pH to optimum level of $\boldsymbol{6}$

LABORATORY RESULTS:									Optional Tests:			
¹pH ²P lb/A	Exchangeable Cations (meq/100g)					% Saturation of the CEC			Organic	Nitrate-N	Soluble salts	
	1 IDIZK	3Acidity	2K	² Mg	²Ca	4CEC	K	Mg	Ca	Matter %	ppm	mmhos/cm
7.2	976	0.0	1.3	3.4	19.3	19.7	6.6	17.1	76.3		- A	250 Villey 100

The high calcium level in this sample indicates the probable presence of soluble calcium. Therefore the CEC and the percent saturations were calculated using a maximum exchangeable calcium level of 15 meq/100 g.

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The Wit and Wisdom of A. J. "Pop" Warner

Excerpts taken from A Year in the Rose Garden by A. J. "Pop" Warner, edited by Marilyn Wellen. Published by the American Rose Society, 1994,

Random Reflections.....while waiting for a freight train to pass.......

- * Spraying is like telling your wife you love her. It has a short residual and has to be repeated regularly.
- * Rose growing is rewarding but friendships resulting from rose growing are even more so.
- '*' You don't grow good roses by the seat of your pants. You do it with the palm of your hands.
- * It is strange how fishing and other hobbies become less attractive when you get into roses. I would get rid of my boat if I had somewhere to store the junk in it.
- * Old Garden Roses are still around because they didn't give up in the face of adverse conditions. So are old Rosarians.
- * Most roses are tough and will stand a lot of neglect, (but like friendships, they repay a little TLC over and over.)
- * It would be nice if the things you need to do come at the same time you want to do them.
- * The greatest deterrent to accomplishment is procrastination. I ought to stop putting things off and sometime I will if I get around to it. Maybe next month!

"It was the old story - good roses, but not good enough."

However, not many blooms found their way to the trophy table. It was the old story, familiar to every experienced exhibitor - good roses, but not good enough.

Although my efforts to win at the shows failed, there were some compensations. Let us list a few of them:

Because of my efforts, my rose beds were a joy to my neighbors.

My physical well-being profited from the exercise in the open air (and it was more fun than calisthenics, even with a Jane Fonda tape.) Memories of show mornings linger on after the roster of winners has been put away. Half asleep and a bit numb from overwork there still was that warm feeling of camaraderie with one's competitors.

Because of a desire to win, I acquired some breathtaking varieties of roses that are a constant pleasure in the garden.

My horizons broadened as I read the ideas of rosarians from far places. I even met some of them

I became more aware of my environment. Organic wastes were recycled to the compost pile for the rose beds. I learned to be more sparing of harmful pesticides, yet get their benefits.

I had the privilege of carrying literally hundreds of roses to friends, to church, to civic organizations, and to see the pleasure they brought.

It was good for the ego to see cars slow down as they passed my rose beds. Many stopped and some got out and were invited to visit.

"I didn't win..... or did I"

New acquaintances were made and some became friends.

A well-tended rose garden enriched my spirit. It was a little touch of heaven to walk through the garden before sun-up on scores of summer mornings.

I worked diligently to be a winner at the rose show and I didn't win.

Or did I?

I think maybe I did.

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Answers to last issue's Rose Quiz

1. Benbass Solar Flare (MinFl 2.Benblack Black Jade (Min) 3. Bencharm Charmer (Min) 4. Bencincuenta Bonfire (Min) 5. Benday Old Glory (Min) 6.Bendiez Caliente (Min) 7.Benfebu Merlot (Min) Figurine (Min) 8. Benfig 9.Benhile Hilde (Min) 10.Beniowa Pinnacle (Fl) 11. BenJen Jennifer (Min) 12. Benjim Jim Dandy (Min) 13.Benlav Lavender Jade (Min)

14.Benmagic Kristin (Min)

15. Benminn Baby Boomer (Min)

16. Benmjul Ruby (Min)

17. Benorchide Orchid Lace (MinFl)

18. Benpico Picotee (Min)

19. Benpete Liberty Bell (MinFl)

20. Benrad Radiant (Min) 21. Benros Rosie (Min)

22. Benseah Show Stopper (MinFl) 23. Bensieta Ambiance (MinFl)

24. Benstar Soroptimist International (Min)

25. Bentot Tiny Tot (Min)

Leading Lady (MinFl) 26. Benuno 27. Benrave Focal Point (MinFl) 28. Benrye Flawless (MinFl) 29. Benocho Double Take (MinFl)

30. Bennovocientos Power Point (MinFl)

31. Benswise Deja Blu (MinFl)

The rose Pele was named because Franks dog Pele kept peeing on that rose.



Ambiance

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