

DISTRICT DOINGS

Jack Kiley, District Director

A number of us are just back from the Fall Conference of the Pacific Northwest District of the ARS. The always-interesting program included the regulars, Gary Ritchie talking about "Got Water?" and Portland photographer, Rich Baer, showing photos of many new roses not yet available commercially. Rich also brought twenty new roses, and donated the proceeds from their sale at a silent auction to the District. One of the roses was a new shrub called Bull's Eye that generated a tremendous amount of interest – and bidding.

Additional presentations included Louise Clements, owner of Heirloom Roses in St. Paul, Oregon, and Ted Brown, a long-term rosarian from Maple Ridge, British Columbia. Louise spoke first about the history of roses and their impact on literature and art; her General Manager, Cheryl Malone, followed with slides devoted to many of their own-root roses. Any one interested in roses needs to visit Heirloom in late May or early June to see their multiple gardens with thousands of blooms. Ted's presentation showed slides of his own garden of some 800 roses, located in the coastal area of BC; most were unique varieties not usually seen here, particularly his many climbers and tree roses.

The weekend began with an Arrangement workshop presented by the District's best arrangers, including Char Mutschler from Salem, Jo Martin from Tacoma, Jo Ann Brehm from Tri-City, and Pat Allen from Portland. The weekend ended with a horticulture judging audit workshop (presented by Bruce Lind) and a consulting rosarian school and audit (presented by John Moe).

In my view, however, the best part of the "Weekend of Roses" is always the time that the 100 attendees renew old friendships and begin new ones, in an atmosphere that is rewarding, educational, and just a lot of fun. Think about joining us in 2012.

The following District Awards were presented:

Outstanding Consulting Rosarian – Jo Martin, Tacoma Rose Society

Outstanding Judge – Pat Allen, Portland Rose Society

Silver Honor Medal – Emery Castle, Corvallis Rose Society

Lifetime Achievement Award – Jean Holmes, Ft. Vancouver Rose Society.

Master Rosarians – JoAnn Brehm, Tri-City Rose Society, Frank Hecker, Ft. Vancouver Rose Society, Richard Kerkof, Tri-City Rose Society.