



Fall Newsletter

October 2020

OUR VISION

A world class rose garden where the community can enjoy and learn about roses.

Wow! 90 Years!

By Taylor Smith

It is my great honor to spearhead our 90th Anniversary Committee alongside **Linda Rostenberg, Martha Comment, Cyndy Price, Devan Hartnett** and our board as a whole.

As the Kansas City Rose Society and the Laura Conyers Smith Municipal Rose Garden approach this milestone, I cannot help but see parallels between 1931 and today. Back then, the depression was at its peak, and the country was still recovering from WW1 and the Spanish Flu. Sound familiar?

It was then that Laura Conyers Smith planted a proverbial seed in her community.

Our committee's mission is to secure the garden's future, not only for ourselves but for our city. Through a series of upcoming signature events and community partnerships, we'll use the garden as a platform to help our city recover and thrive.

A Message from our President

Martha Comment

Hello! We have canceled the Annual Meeting because we want you to be safe, and this newsletter replaces the **Fall Luncheon**. Our Board certainly wishes we could see you, but there will be another time for that. Things will get better.

We've been very busy this year. Through the summer, our volunteer groomers continued to work on a "distanced" basis twice weekly to preserve our beautiful Award-winning Garden for those in Kansas City who love and treasure it. They ensured that we could all still enjoy the garden.

But we did have to cancel events: the Spring Tea in April, the Rose Show and Rose Day in June, and Reading in the Roses, along with Jazz in the Roses and Wine and Roses in September.

Undaunted, Rose Show chair **Laura Dickinson** and her committee creatively produced a digital Rose Show with 88 beautiful photographs that are on our web site. (See page 4 of this newsletter) **Julie Spaeth** will also post our Children's Art Show (a feature of Rose Day) on our site. **Sandy Campuzano** has continued our *Love is a Rose* project honoring loved ones. And **Kandi McCasland** and **Betsy Parker** have agreed to lead Wine and Roses in 2021.



Next year is our **90th birthday!** So, pandemic permitting, watch for a yearlong celebration! See **Taylor Smith's** message at left. Taylor is a new, very creative Board member, who's finding new opportunities and partnerships for the celebration. We'll keep you informed as the year goes along.

A number of new board members are joining us. Please use the enclosed ballot to vote on **Ann Greene, Jim Holswade, Margie Paxton, and Marylou Turner**. We'll welcome these new Board members with great gratitude. I also want to thank **Devan Hartnett, Cyndy Price, Gina Pulliam** and **Mary Barickman** for their years of service as they finish their terms.

I am so thrilled to be the president of this lovely board and for such a great cause! The garden is a Kansas City treasure, and we want it to be here forever. Please join us next year for all of our events. In the meantime, stay safe and healthy.

And don't forget to stop and smell the roses!



Don't Miss our Drone Garden Video!

By Linda Rostenberg

Thank you **T.J. Kilian**, President and Executive Producer of [KJO Media](#) and KCRS member **Sandy Campuzano**! They made Loose Park Director and Rosarian **Judy Penner**'s dream of capturing this year's rose garden at its photographic peak come true!

Sandy reached out to her videographer grandson **Aaron Dewitt**, who shared Judy's vision with his very generous boss. KJO Media supports numerous community groups and has graciously donated most of our video expense.

Several members were on hand for the (very!) early morning shoot in September. They assisted and watched the KJO Media crew put its huge drone and other cameras in action.

We can't wait to share the results of their efforts on our website and in social media. If you have visited the garden lately, you know it's worth seeing in person – and now on video!



Children's Programs

By Julia Spaeth

In April three young poets won the **Rose Prose Poetry Contest**. The winners were: **Lelah Brenchley**, 4th Grade, "In My Back Yard"; **Madeleine M.**, 5th Grade, "O Loose Park"; and **Mason Renner**, 7th Grade, "The Rise of Rosezilla".

Each winner received \$50 and a certificate for their age category. [Click here](#) to see the winning poems. Pleasant reading!

We are hosting a **Virtual Art Show** for young artists ages 5-13. The **deadline for submissions** has been extended to **Nov. 1**. [Click here](#) to learn more.

Since we are unable to meet in large groups, we are putting some power points and short videos of "Fun in the Roses Classes" on the KCRS website. See them at kansascityrosesociety.org. This is an added resource for teachers and for parents to use with their children.



Congratulations Barbara Roche 2020 Bronze Award Winner

By Maria Coughlin

Barbara Roche received the **2020 American Rose Society Bronze Award** for outstanding service to the Kansas City Rose Society at the Groomer's Appreciation Luncheon October 1.

Barbara has been a member of the American Rose Society for seven years and a member of the Kansas City Rose Society for 15 years. But it is her tireless volunteer service that earned her the accolades of her peers and the nomination by the KCRS Board.

Barbara is a Master Gardener and a past member of the KCRS Board of Directors. She's worked as a groomer and volunteered for 10 years with the Rose Garden Committee. During her tenure, she handled procurement of the groomers' equipment and supplies and our treasured green aprons. She also managed the invitations and mailings for the groomer's annual luncheon. Thank you, Barbara, for your many contributions to both the garden and our organization.



*As long as you're amping up screen time at home . . .
Watch some beautiful garden videos!*

By Linda Rostenberg

We all love a quiet stroll through the Laura Conyers Smith Memorial Rose Garden in Loose Park. But while walking by thousands of roses, have you ever been curious what, exactly, you are looking at?

Wonder no more! The Kansas City Rose Society's talented Rosarians share fascinating stories of the garden and its most outstanding roses, teach us about appearance and scent characteristics, share growing tips and flood our screens with beautiful rosy pictures in our new short, educating and entertaining videos! We are gradually adding them to our [new video library](#) featured on kansascityrosesociety.org and our new YouTube Channel.

Our video narrators were American Rose Society Consulting Rosarians **John Riley** and **Laura Dickinson**, and Head Rosarian and Loose Park Director **Judy Penner**.

Our topics include:

A Brief History of the Rose Garden founded 1931 - 130 varieties, 3000 plants!

Climbing Roses, featuring New Dawn – growing roses on vertical structures

Mr. Lincoln, Hybrid Tea Rose – classic beauty and prize-winning fragrance

Quietness, Shrub Rose –disease resistance and non-stop blooms

Roses in the Pollinator Garden (with bees!)

Rosa Hugonis, Species Rose (1899) - our earliest bloomer

American Pillar, Hybrid Rose

Floribunda Roses for Every Garden

Gold Medal, Grandiflora

Harison's Yellow – an 1830s Garden Rose

Graham Thomas, David Austin Shrub Roses – easy care, fragrant, Old World

*And don't miss these
New "How To"
Grooming Videos*

This new series was shot by garden committee chair **Lauren English** and narrated by Loose Park Director and Head Rosarian **Judy Penner**. The videos are all on Judy's YouTube Channel and also on the KCRS website. Please look Judy up, subscribe and like her page today! The videos give you close-up lessons in **David Austin, Grandiflora, Hybrid Tea, Shrub and Floribunda** Roses.

To stay in the know. . .

Check our website regularly, as we plan to share more topics via videos in the coming months.

And see our social media platforms too. Enjoy photos and info about the Kansas City Rose Society and Rose Garden on our [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#) pages.



Our thanks to **Greg German, Lauren English** and **John Riley** for filming the garden in action

We're Growing!

Please introduce yourself and help welcome our newest members.

2020

Beth and Tom Aber
Beth and Keith Ahm
Wendy and Grant Burcham
(Patron)
Shannon Dougherty
Virginia and Roger Emley
Barbara and Jeffrey Fegley
Annette Fibuch
Adrienne Fisher
Pauline Freeman
Mercedes Gartin
Ann and Jim Greene
Nicholette Haigler
Lori Hoodenpyle
Michaela Hunter
Lori and Dan Judd
Wendy Kendrick
Regina Kort
Camille Kulig
Derek and Jason Landrum-
Vetter
Connie and John Linville
Mickie McKenna
Robert McManus and Finan
Marien-McManus
Heather Mellor
John and Judy Miller
Lindsey Rood-Clifford
Mindy and Ray Ryan
Blythe Sobol and Patrick
Salland
Lyn Sorenson
Meg Spiker
Betty Sterling
Sean Stratton and Natalie
Forte

Ekaterina Strekaleva-
Hughes and Dave
Hughes
Lauren Thompson and
Matt Sterling
Loraine and Paul Turek
Julia White

2019

Susan Baker
Sue Bubb
Diane Clarkson
Paul and Linda DeBruce
(Lifetime)
Amy and David Embry
(Patron)
Gary and Barbara
Groening
Tom and Valerie Hogan
Alyson Lewis
Llinos Liesy
Marianne MacCurdy
Jan and Mark Morgan
(Lifetime)
Tom Moriarity
Beth Penner
Janet and Kevin Pistilli
(Lifetime)
Pamela Ruppert
Kristen and Mark Schotte
Taylor Smith (Patron)
Beverly and Michael South
Michael Wathen
Betty Whitcomb
Alicia Widlund (Patron)
Joan Wiese
Carol Ann Woodbury
Raridon (Lifetime)

And the virtual winners were . . .

By Laura Dickinson

When COVID prevented us from hosting our annual Rose Show, we organized a digital rose photography show instead. Nine exhibitors submitted 88 photos. The top prize winners were:



Queen of the Show – Sally Holmes by Lauren English



King of the Show – Salet by LeAnne Beaumont



Princess of the Show – Laura Conyers Smith Rose Garden by Michael Wathen

[Click here](#) to see all the winning photos and for information on [fall and winter rose care](#).





Thank You Groomers for another beautiful year!

By Lauren English

We celebrated our 20th year of grooming in the Rose Garden at our **Groomer Appreciation Luncheon** on Oct. 1!

Melissa Windju was honored for 20 years of service with a 20-year pin. Her many years of pins were displayed for all to admire. Garden Committee member **Mary Funk** received her 10-year pin. **Ann Greene** earned her green apron as a first-time groomer with more than 15 hours. And long-time Garden Committee member and groomer **Barbara Roche** was awarded the **American Rose Society Bronze Award** for her many contributions to the Rose Society.

Congratulations to all!

A big thank you to these groomers who worked at least 15 hours and earned a "Covid-19" pin for their apron: **Elaine Adams, Martha Comment, Maria Coughlin, Laura Dickinson, Helga Friess, Mary Funk, Devan Hartnett, Virginia Hill, Tom Hogan, Johanna Holswade, Jim Holswade, Teri James, Jennifer Jensen, Lori Judd, Angela Lefman, Barbara McCanse, Becky McKee, Tom Moriarty, Carole Mosher, Martha Negley, Doug Polson, Cyndy Price, Gina Pulliam, Jillian Richwine, Vicki Riffle, Kathleen Rocha, Barbara Roche, Robin Rosenbrook, Linda Rostenberg, Susan Sengstacken, Julie Spaeth, Betty Whitcomb and Melissa Windju.**

Special Thanks from Lauren English

*I doubt any of us will ever forget grooming in the Rose Garden during the worldwide Covid-19 Pandemic of 2020! With the help of Loose Park Director and Head Rosarian **Judy Penner**, her staff and the **Garden Committee**, including **Maria Coughlin, Mary Funk, Martha Negely and Barbara Roche**, the grooming program shined brightly during this difficult time. We started social distance grooming in early June, with masks and assigned pruners, roped off from the public. Our 36 groomers worked Tuesdays (an added day) and Thursdays. We were unable to train any new groomers, but Rosarian **John Riley** offered tours of the Rose Garden to those interested in grooming next year.*

The groomers pruned for three and a half months in a magnificent Rose Garden that never seemed to stop blooming! They really missed Tea Time this season, so Martha Negley's Gilded Rose Hunt idea was a big hit all summer. The KCRS ball caps were the favorite prize.

Many thanks to our dedicated groomers who made lemonade out of lemons!



Fall and Winter Rose Care Checklist

By Laura Dickinson,
Consulting Rosarian

- Stop deadheading in September to allow roses to prepare for winter dormancy
- Continue watering 1 inch per week so plants stay hydrated going into winter
- After leaves have fallen (usually the end of November), cover tender and grafted roots for winter protection.
- Browse rose catalogs and online nurseries and dream of next year's beautiful blooms.

For more rose care information, [click here](#).



Three We will Miss

By Sandy Campuzano

Thomas Roche (husband of Barbara Roche), **Judith Aull** (Lifetime member), and **Ray B. Luhnow, Jr.** (Lifetime member, Post Falls, Idaho) were wonderful supporters of the Rose Garden. It has long been a tradition in the Rose Society to honor members who have passed away in the current year. We humbly acknowledge with gratitude their dedication, support and service to this organization.

We have a new Consulting Rosarian!

By Laura Dickinson

Congratulations to **LeAnne Beaumont**, who completed the requirements to become an American Rose Society Consulting Rosarian! LeAnne joins **Laura Dickinson**, **Glenn Hodges** and **John Riley** in promoting rose gardening education and support to gardeners in our community.

2020 KCRS Board of Directors

Martha Comment – President 816-210-5241
Kandi McCasland – Vice Pres. 816-810-4022
John Riley - Secretary 913-341-2853
Sean Hughes - Treasurer 816-719-9896

Betsy Beasley	Betsy Parker
Maria Coughlin	Cyndy Price
Laura Dickinson	Gina Pulliam
Lauren English	Linda Rostenberg
Devan Hartnett	Joan Sherman
Judy King	Taylor Smith
	Julie Spaeth

2021 DUES ARE DUE!

It's time to renew your dues. And you must renew to be included in the **2021 Members Directory**. So please watch for the renewal information and application in the mail or [renew online](#).

