



## Summer Newsletter 2022

**OUR VISION**  
A WORLD CLASS ROSE GARDEN WHERE THE COMMUNITY CAN ENJOY AND LEARN ABOUT ROSES.



Marylou Turner and Amy Embry



Event Chairs Linda Rostenberg, Martha Comment and Taylor Smith did a great job!

### Save these Dates!

#### *Reading in the Roses*

July 9 – 3-4:30 pm (Garden Center Rose Room) Come hear Missouri Poet Laureate Maryfrances Wagner and published poet Greg Field.

#### *Jazz in the Roses*

Sept. 11 – 4-6 pm (Rose Garden)

#### *Wine and Roses*

Sept. 15 – 5:30-7:30 pm (Rose Garden)

#### *Groomers Luncheon*

Sept. 29 – 11:30-1:30 pm (East Pavilion) To honor and thank our Groomers!

#### *Fall Rose Demo*

Oct. 19 – 11:30-1:30 pm (Rose Room and Garden)

#### *Reading in the Roses*

Oct. 22 – 2-3:30 pm (Garden Center Rose Room)

#### *Annual Luncheon*

Nov. 2 – 11 am-2 pm (Carriage Club)

### Kids do the greatest things!

[Click here](#) to see the *Rich History of the Loose Park Rose Garden – Dart News Online*. It was written by **St. Theresa Academy** Sophomore **Tierney Flavin!** Well done Tierney!

## Tea & Total Fun!

By Taylor Smith

Our Annual Spring Tea brought more than 65 members together to kick off the Summer of '22! This year Committee members **Linda Rostenberg**, **Martha Comment** and **Taylor Smith** introduced both a new venue and an auction to support our organization.

**Lidia's Restaurant's** Executive Chef created a custom menu for the event. We're thankful for their partnership and their stunning wisteria, which filled the space with its lovely fragrance.

Thanks also to generous sponsor **Spruce Home**, a local home décor and lifestyle shop in Prairie Village, that donated floral arrangements in designer containers for the auction. And special thanks to **Nyla Mischke** for photographing our events and to new member Kansas City artist **Wes Benson**, who donated an original oil painting of the Laura Conyers Smith Municipal Rose Garden to the auction. Benson's series of beautiful Loose Park paintings were also on display for members to enjoy.



Kandi McCasland, Sandy Campuzano and artist Wes Benson



Nicholette Haigler, Julia Trotter, Julie Spaeth, and Johanna Holswade



Mark McCasland and Steve Sherman



Linda Miller



Jan Kyle and Heather Paxton



Vice President  
Laura Dickinson

If there's anything you want to know about roses, ask Consulting Rosarian and Extension Master Gardener Laura Dickinson. She either knows the answer or how to find it.

Laura has spent her life learning about nature and science, although she quickly adds that she killed the first rose bush she ever planted! (That means there's hope for all of us!) She grew up on a farm in Wichita, riding and showing horses; a tomboy who loved to climb trees. Being outside is where she still gets her "best energy and feels most at peace."

Laura earned a B.S. in both Environmental Science and Biology, plus a Teaching Certificate from the University of Northern Colorado. She became an outdoor educator at nature centers and summer camps. She went on to earn a Master's in Library Science, and, happily for us, that brought her to Kansas City's Linda Hall Library of Science, Engineering and Technology, where she worked for five years. She then became Director of Science Pioneers, an organization that sponsored KC's annual Science and Engineering Fair. Later she served as Volunteer Coordinator of the Johnson County Extension Master Gardeners program.

Kansas City is also where she met her husband, Kent. "We sang in the same church choir," she adds with a smile.

Laura has served on the Rose Society Board for six years and as Rose Show Chair since 2018. As our Consulting Rosarian Coordinator, she also directs and takes turns responding to the **Ask a Rosarian** hotline, provides educational content for our website, and coordinates requested presentations and tours of the garden. She loves "helping people understand nature and science, so they can become better gardeners."

Clearly, Laura Dickinson blooms wherever she goes!

## Get To Know Our Board

These Board Member profiles are designed to help you know - and maybe join - them!



Treasurer  
Vicki Riffle

As one of the first students in Kansas City's desegregation program, Vicki Riffle is part of Kansas City history. "One year I was bussed part way and then changed to a second bus to reach Central and then East High School in K.C.," she remembers.

Vicki went on to earn a degree in Elementary Education at William Jewell College, married, and taught first and second grade for the next five years. When she became the sole support of her two young children, a good friend and neighbor who sold real estate offered to teach Vicki the business. "I did substitute teaching while I built a career in real estate," she explains.

She was a fast learner. She soon became a broker in Missouri and Kansas, and eight years later was named Department Head of the Nichols Referral Network. She finished her career as Reece & Nichols Director of Marketing.

Vicki has two children and is "Bubbie" to her six grandchildren. When they turn 12, she takes each on a special trip to the destination of their choice. She has visited Harry Potter World three times (what a woman!) and the backwoods of Minnesota once, with two more trips to go.

She loves to travel and has gone on 16 Road Scholar trips, eight of them bicycle trips to Europe and Canada. She is a self-described KU Basketball "fanatic" and an avid volunteer who works at the Nelson's Kirkwood Hall Information Desk and in the weekly [Lead to Read](#) program. She became a Rose Society Groomer five years ago and was invited to join the KCRS Board as Treasurer last year.

"I'm one of the luckiest people alive," she adds. "I have a wonderful life and lots of good friends." Aren't we lucky too, to have her as a member!



**Photography Judges Glenn Hodges and Megan Wyeth** (center) assisted by event chair **Laura Dickinson** (right)



**Judges Mike and Lisa McDonald** came from St. Charles, Mo.



Judges **Linda and Gary Osborn** presented **Glenn Hodges** with a handmade **Quilt of Valor**. Linda pieced the top together and Gary quilted the top, bottom and interior batting. These quilts are given in thanks to veterans and active-duty military personnel.



**Lauren English**, Garden and Rose Day Chair, **Stephen VanRhein**, Kansas City Parks Environmental Manager, **Laura Dickinson**, KCRS Vice-President and Rose Show Chair, and **Kandi McCasland**, KCRS President.



Rose Day Ice cream tent volunteers **Brian Heidemann**, **Sara Laughlin**, local Marketing Manager for Andy's Frozen Custard, **Jo Ellen Wurth**, **Ann Greene** and **Jillian Richwine**.

## ROSE SHOW AND ROSE DAY

By **Laura Dickinson**

The June 4, 2022 Rose Show was a great success! 428 roses and 73 photographs were submitted by 24 exhibitors from as far away as Urbandale, Iowa, and Springfield and St. Charles, Mo. After the show, the roses were donated to [Unexpected Blooms](#), a non-profit group that rearranges leftover flowers from events into bouquets for senior care centers, hospitals, hospice houses and others.

Here are a few of the prize-winning roses and exhibitors. For a complete list of rose show results, [click here](#).

- **Best of Show** – Abbey's Angel shown by **Stan Horton**
- **Best Rose Photograph** - Ring of Fire shown by **Jerry Dreyer**
- **Best Youth Entry** - Popcorn shown by **Cassandra Wendel**
- **Best Novice Entry** - The Generous Gardener shown by **Ann Greene**
- **Most Fragrant Rose** (voted on by the public) - Papa Meilland (#1) shown by **Stan Horton**



Judges **Lisa McDonald** and **Gary Osborn** at work.



Tally Clerks **John Riley** and **Jerry Dreyer**, a new KCRS member who lives in Urbandale, Iowa.

Close to 500 people of all ages visited Rose Day on June 5, 2022. This free event in the Rose Garden ran from 1 to 5 p.m. and included the music of the **Mighty Moe Combo**, **Andy's Frozen Custard** and **Cosentino's** ice cream sandwiches.

Tents housed the **Consulting Rosarians** and KCRS Membership, along with face painting, balloon art, a **children's rose art exhibition** and art project tables. President **Kandi McCasland** read the Kansas City Rose Day Proclamation and introduced Parks Environmental Manager **Stephen VanRhein**, who praised and highlighted the 91-year partnership of the Kansas City Rose Society and the Parks Department. **Lauren English** thanked the wonderful vendors and KCRS volunteers, and **Laura Dickinson** announced the Rose Show winners.

And of course, the roses were the showstopper!

Many thanks to our volunteers: **LeAnne Beaumont**, **Wes Browning**, **Martha Comment**, **Richard English**, **Ann and Jim Greene**, **Johanna and Jim Holswade**, **Laura Jaber**, **Cathy Klose**, **Kandi McCasland**, **Martha Negley**, **Beth Penner**, **Jillian Richwine**, **John Riley**, **Taylor Smith**, **Julie Spaeth**, **Derek Landrum-Vetter**, **Jillian and Chris Wenburg**, and **JoEllen Wurth**.

Special thanks also to Parks employee **John O'Flarety** for helping set up and close down the event!

# Consulting Rosarians Report

By Laura Dickinson

Congratulations to **Lauren English** who completed the requirements to become an American Rose Society Consulting Rosarian! She joins **LeAnne Beaumont, Laura Dickinson, Glenn Hodges, JJ Jensen, Judy Penner and John Riley** in supporting the rose gardening needs of our community and beyond.

Our Consulting Rosarians are trained and certified by the [American Rose Society](#) and attend regular continuing education classes to maintain their certification.

Consulting Rosarians respond to requests for rose gardening advice through our [Ask a Rosarian email helpline](#).

Questions range from mystery rose identification and planting guidance, to pruning, fertilizer, pest control, and more. CRs also answer questions at public events, including the **Rose Show, Jazz in the Roses, Wine and Roses** and the **weekly rose garden grooming sessions**.

[Click here](#) to see short videos on rose care and interesting stories about the roses in the Laura Conyers Smith rose garden.

A BIG Thank You to all our CRs for their dedication to rose garden education!



**Laura Dickinson** presented the graduation certificate to new Consulting Rosarian **Lauren English**.



## Rose Garden Benches Renewed!

By Kandi McCasland

The Kansas City Rose Society recently had 15 teak benches in the Laura Conyers Smith Municipal Rose Garden removed for cleaning and restoration by [Tudor Woodworks](#).

**KC Parks and Recreation** assisted with the removal and reinstallation of the benches. All were returned in April, and a new teak bench replaced one that had been damaged beyond repair.

Rose Day visitors in the garden enjoyed the "new" benches.



Email us at:  
[kcrosehelp@gmail.com](mailto:kcrosehelp@gmail.com)

## Love Is A Rose

Have a friend who's celebrating a special occasion and doesn't need a thing? Consider giving a rose bush! **Friendship Roses** are purchased by the Kansas City Rose Society and planted in the Laura Conyers Smith Municipal Rose Garden. Your friend will receive a beautiful handwritten note that marks the occasion and includes your name as the gift giver. [Click here](#) for details and to place an order.

# Children's Programs

By Julia Spaeth



## Rose Poetry Contest

The Annual Rose Poetry Contest was held in April. The winners were **Loren Gillette** - Grades 3-4, **Lalah Brenchley** - Grades 5-6, and **Hollis Glidden** - Grades 7-8. See more about them below.



"Bees buzzing all around --  
The beautiful rose heard their sound.  
I have to do it. I have to bloom  
Come on bees, zoom - zoom - zoom!"  
*Loren Gillette*

## Reading in the Roses

By Betsy Beasley

A special occasion on May 14 launched our eighth year of the KCRS partnering with The Writers Place event, **Reading in the Roses**. We celebrated the winners of the Children's Poetry Contest. The three winners in grades 3-4, 5-6, 7-8 received their awards and prizes, and shared their poems from memory to a jovial crowd, receiving great applause for their poems. Also reading were Children's book authors **Alastair Heim** and **Scott Emmons**.

Emcee, poet and judge, **Alarie Tennille** always invites extraordinary literary writing talents for these events held at the Loose Park Garden Center. A reception afterward provides time to visit with the writers and guests.

Please mark your calendar for our last two Reading in the Roses events, and enjoy camaraderie with our local literary talents:

- Saturday, July 9 with Missouri Poet Laureate **Maryfrances Wagner** and poet **Greg Field**.
- Saturday, October 22, with poets **Phyllis Becker** and **Greg German** and novelist **Angela Hagenbach**.

## Children's Art Show

This year's Art Show on Rose Day, June 5, displayed over 100 pieces of art. Participating schools included **Académie Lafayette**, **Garfield Elementary**, **Homeschoolers**, **James Elementary**, **Notre Dame de Sion**, **Pioneer Trails Middle School**, **St. Peter's School**, **Visitation** and **Whitefield Elementary**.

## Fun-in-the-Garden Classes

Summer classes began in May when 40 **Visitation** kindergartners visited the garden.

Summer classes are scheduled on Tuesday and Thursday, 9:30-10:30. [Click here](#) to reserve a date.



Children's author **Alastair Heim** talked with audience members about his books and signed copies for them.



Emcee **Alarie Tennille** welcomed the audience and explained the judges' reasoning for selecting the winning poems.

# Please Help Welcome Dana Flemming

## New Head Rosarian and City Landscape Technician

Dana Flemming, our beloved Rose Garden's new **Head Rosarian**, joined KC Parks and Recreation in March as **City Landscape Technician**. We're SO GLAD she's here.

Dana developed her love of nature on her grandparents' farm in Salina, Ks. So it was just the natural next step to earn an Ornamental Horticulture degree at Kansas State, with a minor in Etymology and Pathology (or, she laughs, "bugs and diseases!"")

Over the years, she has reached out to new opportunities to grow and learn, and held positions at Powell Gardens, the Topeka and Kansas City Zoos, and Walt Disney World in Florida. She also ran her own high-end landscaping company for a number of years.

"I want to make the Rose Garden a learning place for our groomers and visitors," she said. "And I want to make it fun for them. For example, how do you remember to cut and prune roses at a 45° angle? It's the same reason most roofs are pointed at the top: to make the rain fall to the ground instead



Dana below the wisteria at the May Tea

of sitting on the house top. It protects the rose bush from bacteria and bugs. So snip-snip-snip becomes roof-roof-roof!"

"And most people don't realize that black spot is actually a huge mass of

tiny spores. When water hits the spores, they shoot into the air, landing on leaves higher up on the plant. Blackspot usually works its way up from the lowest leaves. That's why it's so important to pick up rose leaves on the ground."

She hopes to eventually offer classes in "the whys of rose care" if time permits and the Parks Dept. likes the idea.

Dana also currently volunteers with *Iowa Midwest Wire Fox Terriers* and has worked in dog rescue for 30 years. "I think I transported **Martha Negley**'s dog a few years back," she smiles.

Between dog rescue, her new home near Longview Lake, and her new job, she's pretty busy - but never too busy to meet all of us and share her knowledge!

So be sure to stop and say hello when you see Dana in the Park.



Dana often has a little comrade in the garden: **ZaraRose**, an adorable Toy Rat Terrier who will weigh in at eight pounds when fully grown! "Her job will be to chase bunnies!"

SAVE THE DATE!  
Kansas City Rose Society's  
**WINE & ROSES**  
"A Rose is A Rose is A Rose"  
THURSDAY,  
SEPTEMBER 15TH  
Laura Conyers Smith Municipal Garden  
5:30-7:30 PM



New Rosebuds member, **Liz Walters** assisted the judges as a Rose Show Clerk.

## Rosebuds Update

By Taylor Smith

The Rosebud Grooming Sessions program (two Saturdays each month) is now in its second year. We meet on weekends to enable our younger working members to participate in grooming. These sessions are open to any Rosebud interested in learning more about rose care and in helping care for the garden.

Rosebuds were also active in the planning of Rose Day and supported the Rose Show as volunteers.

Any young professional with a passion for roses, gardening, and our beloved garden are invited to join this new membership initiative. Please contact **Taylor Smith** at [rsmithcreative@gmail.com](mailto:rsmithcreative@gmail.com) for more information.

# Bravo for the Beneficials!

By Kim Austin  
South Carolina Rose Society and  
ARS Consulting Rosarian

Making the change to an organic, chemical-free garden in order to limit spraying is better for bees and earthworms. If you exhibit roses, you'll probably have low tolerance for pests, diseases and imperfections. But, if yours is a cutting garden, and you don't mind an odd hole in a leaf or a less-than-perfect bloom, you might want to consider adding these beneficial insects. They can save you a lot of work, and they're good for the environment.



## Lady Bug Beetles & larvae

Both the lady bug beetle and its larvae will devour aphids and thrips. You can buy the adult beetles to release in your garden, but it's hard to get them to stay. If you release them around sunset, they will at least stay and work overnight on your roses. The monster-looking larvae on the right last in this stage for 10 – 14 days before they pupate into adults.



## Green lacewings

Lacewing larvae are called "aphid lions" for a reason. They can devour at least 100 aphids in a week. Lilies, sunflowers and dandelions attract these incredible insects.



## Predatory mites

Predatory mites feed on spider mites. They are reddish orange and pear-shaped. Eggs hatch after a few days and the young join the adult mites to prey on the bad mites. A heavy infestation may take two separate releases. They're shipped in a salt shaker to shake throughout your garden. Four types of mites are commercially available. The kind you purchase depends on your area's temperature and humidity level.

## Internet Resources for Beneficial Insects

[Arbico-organics.com](http://Arbico-organics.com), [planetnatural.com](http://planetnatural.com), [gardeners.com](http://gardeners.com)

They will include info on proper storage and release time.

# Rose Photography

By Glenn Hodges



This view of the Laura Conyers Smith Municipal Rose Garden, Kansas City, Mo. was taken by **Michael Wathen**. It won First-Place in the **2021 ARS Digital Photography Contest**.

The **American Rose Society** (ARS) encourages local societies and districts to include rose photography in their rose shows.

Rose photography is not limited to specimen roses (one bloom per stem exhibition form, fully open blooms, or sprays.) Photographs of rose gardens, public and/or private, may be included. The guidelines state, "Photographs should show the use of roses within the structure of the garden ... Roses should dominate in the photograph, and some of the layout of the garden should be visible."

The **First-Place** winner of the **2021 ARS Digital Photography Contest** in the Rose Garden Class was **Michael Wathen** of Kansas City, Mo. He also, won Second Place with a photograph of the **Reinisch Rose Garden** in Gage Park in Topeka, Kansas, and Third Place with another photograph of the Laura Conyers Smith Municipal Rose Garden.

In his earlier years, Mike took snapshots occasionally. But about five years ago, he became a serious photographer of landscapes after he purchased a Canon 80D camera. He usually uses a wide-angle lens with polarizing filters. And, of course, he also uses the camera feature of his iPhone!



## Our Groomers Rule!

By Lauren English

The May 19th Groomer Session welcomed 13 new groomers and many of the over 50 experienced groomers returning for the 2022 season. Head Rosarian **Dana Flemming** and KCRS Garden Chair **Lauren English** trained the newcomers. Consulting Rosarians **Laura Dickinson** and **Jennifer (JJ) Jensen** led a refresher course for the skilled groomers.

Many thanks to Garden Committee member **Martha Negley** for providing delicious treats for the morning training session and to members **Ann Greene** and **Maria Coughlin** for their help with volunteer forms and tea time information.



*Some of our new groomers! So glad they've joined us!*

## Please Help Welcome Our Newest Members!

By Marylou Turner

Be a KCRS ambassador! When you meet a new member, tell them about the KCRS activities you're involved in, and invite them to join you in one if they show interest.

Spenser Albertsen and  
Ren Whei Harn  
Nancy Bramlett  
Chadwick Brooks  
Susan Bubb  
Stephen Bumgarner  
Loretta Burns  
Diane Condeni

Jerry Dreyer  
Gregory and Teri Gruss  
Martha Selders Hogerty  
Kathleen (Kathy) Hughes  
Bruce Kay  
Roger Kinderknecht  
Catherine Klose and Randy  
Thompson  
Dr. Stephen Koshland

Terry Mann  
Kevin Rogers  
Bety Shackelford  
Patricia Stewart  
Stephanie Tatum  
Catherine Vanacore  
Derek Vetter  
Rita Witt

*Who's this guy???*



*The first groomer to find Roamy, the Roaming Gnome, each week this season may choose a gift certificate from an array of Kansas City favorites!*

*Don't be the last to Gnome!*

## 2022 KCRS Board

*Have a question? Give us a call.*

<b>Kandi McCasland</b>	President
<b>Laura Dickinson</b>	Vice-President
<b>John Riley</b>	Secretary
<b>Vicki Riffle</b>	Treasurer

Betsy Beasley	Jim Holswade	Linda Rostenberg
Martha Comment	Barbara McCanse	Joan Sherman
Maria Coughlin	Betsy Parker	Taylor Smith
Lauren English	Margie Paxton	Julie Spaeth
Ann Greene		Marylou Turner