

2007 Award of Merit Winner

Hybridizing for Fun

By Gail Trimble

Resources

With the advent of the computer age, there is an enormous amount of hybridizing information available. The best source of information is the Rose Hybridizers Association - their website is located at:

<http://www.rosehybridizers.org/>. Membership is only \$10 per year and includes quarterly newsletters that supply information for both the beginner and advanced hybridizer. They also produce two invaluable booklets: "Hybridizing for Beginners" for \$5.00, and "Rose Hybridizing -The Next Step" for \$12.00 - the latter is an 82 page booklet with advanced articles by 20 hybridizers. Both booklet prices include postage.

For a membership application, visit:

<http://www.rosehybridizers.org/application.html>

If you do not have internet access, you can send a check to:

Larry D. Peterson,
21 South Wheaton Road
Horseheads, NY 14845



• HelpMeFind / Roses is essential for finding out the names of the parents of roses, their descendants, their color, hybridizer, family tree, photos, where to buy them, etc. It is located at:

<http://www.helpmefind.com/rose/index.php>

Forums

• The Rose Hybridizers Association has a forum on their website at:

• <http://www.rosehybridizers.org/forum/>. It is open to members and non-members alike, and is a great place to get answers to questions – usually on the same day.

• Rosarian's Corner, <http://www.rosarianscorner.net>, is a forum for registered members that "provides a community for rose enthusiasts to discuss all facets of roses and their care." Among the many forums are "General Hybridizing Discussion" and "Prop and Swap". Members are very helpful on this forum.

• GardenWeb forums have discussions on all types of plants. Their "Rose Propagation and Exchange" forum is located at:

<http://forums.gardenweb.com/forums/rosespro/>



Hybridizers' Websites

• "The Henry Kuska Home Page" at:

<http://home.roadrunner.com/~kuska/> has numerous articles on rose hybridizing.

• "How to Grow Roses from Seed" by Kitty Belendez, <http://www.scvrs.homestead.com/HybridizeKB1.html>, describes hybridizing along with excellent photos.

• "Sproul Roses by Design" by Dr. James Sproul, <http://www.sproulrosesbydesign.com/>, includes articles on genetics, record keeping, and seedling evaluation.

• "Rose Hybridizing", an American Rose Society PowerPoint presentation by Judith Belsham Singer, has excellent photos on the hybridizing process:

http://www.abrignon.com/Rose%20Hybridizing%20Presentation%20Final_files/frame.htm

• The "Roses of Excellence" website has articles by George Mander at:

<http://www3.telus.net/georgemander/articles.html>

• "Why Would a Grown Man Spend So Much Time With Roses?" by Randy Hughes, chronicles the path many of us take to hybridizing:

<http://www.rosehybridizers.org/whywould.html>

• "My Approach to Pollination of Roses, Harvest of Seed, and Production of Seedlings" by Paul Barden is at:

<http://rdrop.com/~paul/seedproduction.2004.html>

• Karl King's "Cyber Rose", located at:

http://www.bulbrose.org/Roses/breeding/rose_brd.htm

has numerous articles on rose breeding:

- For “A Brief Primer on Miniature Rose Breeding” by Paul Barden visit:

<http://rdrop.com/~paul/mini.breeding.html>



- “It’s July; Can I Rest Now?” by Paul Barden, is at: http://rdrop.com/~paul/main_july2002.html
- A List of Ralph Moore’s Writings (including the text of the articles) is on Paul Barden’s website at: <http://rdrop.com/~paul/moorewritings.html>
- “Species and Groups Ploidy List” by David Neumeyer, has a list of roses and their chromosome count: http://rdrop.com/~paul/species_ploidy.html
- “Chromosomes of Garden Roses” by Ann P. Wylie is at: <http://www.rdrop.com/%7Epaul/genecount.html>
- Numerous archived propagation articles on Paul Barden’s Website are at: http://rdrop.com/~paul/site_index.html
- Dr. Griffith Buck, his life and roses, is the subject of “The Buck Rose Website” at: <http://www.ag.iastate.edu/centers/cad/rose1.html>

A Final Thought

Hybridizing requires an enormous amount of patience. It is fraught with disappointment, setbacks, and frustration. Many seeds don’t germinate, or if they do, the seedlings might die or have lots of disease. Some seedlings have beautiful blooms with no decent plant to support them and steps toward your goal are usually achieved with exasperating slowness. Regardless of all of this, there is nothing in the rose world as rewarding as seeing your own seedlings grow and bloom. It is a passion that requires year-long work, but the satisfaction is immeasurable.