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# RALEIGH ROSE SOCIETY

FOUNDED IN 1947  
AFFILIATED WITH THE AMERICAN ROSE SOCIETY

May / June 2007

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## And the Winner is.....

First of all, a BIG thank you to all of those who volunteered at any time in the show planning process! The 60<sup>th</sup> Annual Raleigh Rose Society Rose Show at the JC Raulston Arboretum was an overwhelming success. The arboretum was gracious enough to squeeze us into their busy schedule and we could not have asked for a better location. Now, on to the results!!

It may come as no surprise that Harold White (RRS Member) was the *Queen of Show* winner with his rose, *LeAnn Rimes*. He also conquered many classes including *Dowager* and *Victorian Award* just to name a few. Harold, being the winningest exhibitor took home the *Sweepstakes Award* (having the most blue ribbons in the show). Bill Whitaker (RRS Member) had one of his best shows taking *King* and *Princess* along with winning *Mini-Queen* and *Mini-Princess* of show. Bob and Judy Arthofer took home most of

the Mini-Flora categories including *Queen*, *King* and *Princess* and *Mini-Sweepstakes*. Stephen Stager (RRS Member) is also no longer a Novice winning his first blue ribbon. He is now in the mix with the rest of the Exhibiting Pros. The complete results of the show can be seen on our website at: [www.raleighrosesociety.org](http://www.raleighrosesociety.org).

We would also like to thank our many sponsors and vendors; without them, the show would not be possible:

|                          |             |
|--------------------------|-------------|
| Antique Rose Emporium    | Beaty       |
| Fertilizer Company       | Drip Works  |
| Espoma                   | Green Light |
| Company                  | Miracle Gro |
| Regan Nursery            | Rosemania   |
| Witherspoon Rose Culture |             |



## Next Meeting

Saturday, **July 28** at 10:00 am at **Witherspoon Rose Culture** in Durham. Come join us for an informative meeting followed by lunch given by the professionals at Witherspoon Rose Culture. Bring your friends! Please RSVP to [jva400@yahoo.com](mailto:jva400@yahoo.com) by July 25<sup>th</sup>! See [www.witherspoonrose.com](http://www.witherspoonrose.com) for directions.

**No August Meeting!**

September meeting/garden tour at the home of Harold White info to follow !

# Propagating Roses

Again, we were blessed by another informative meeting led by Harold white on the many different ways to propagate roses. Why propagate? Harold likes to propagate roses that he enjoys exhibiting to increase the number of bushes he has to select his prize winners from.

**Merriam-Webster's** definition of **propagate** is *to cause to continue or increase by sexual or asexual reproduction*. There are many ways to asexually reproduce roses through propagation.

1. In the Spring time, take the new soft stem of a cane and bend it over to the ground. Bury 4" deep and leave about 6-8" of it out. Wait 1 more year for the connecting stem to die. This method is especially effective for Old Garden roses and other varieties with long sweeping canes.
2. This take place when you do your Winter pruning after the second hard frost (usually around Christmas time). Cut off a stem about 12" long and stick it in the ground about 5-6" deep. The bud eyes will form a **callous** which is a change in the roses' cellular structure. This is the area where the roots will form. Harold Experiences a 90% success rate with this method.
3. Take a large zip-lock bag and place moist potting soil in the bottom 1/4. Place cutting inside, before sealing the bag, blow air inside for rigidity and seal bag.

This last method we were able to have hands on experience practicing. The rose used is one of Harold White's favorite exhibiting roses, *Hot Princess*.

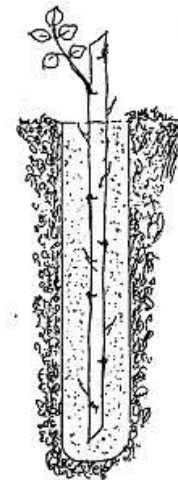
Look for a cane that is approximately the thickness of a pencil and take a 10" cutting. Not many leaves are needed as they only take energy away from root production. Remove all leaves except for the top 2 leaf sections. In each set of 3 leaves, remove the middle leaf.

Re-cut the bottom of the stem through the node (as there is some evidence that it will root faster) at an angle under water. The stem is cut under water to prevent an air embolism.

A rooting hormone is not necessary but could increase your success rate. Rooting hormones come in powder, liquid and gel form. Harold prefers liquid. Dip the bottom of your cane in the rooting hormone for about 10 seconds.

Meanwhile, take your pot with moist potting soil and make a hole in the center with your finger about 4" deep. Place cutting in hole and push soil around cutting. Mist the cutting with Hydrogen Peroxide to prevent any diseases. Use a 1C H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> to about 25 ounces water in a spray bottle. Cover with 2 liter soda bottle (bottom cut off) and water.

Watch for too much or too little moisture. Remove the cap if there is too much moisture. Some roses will root in 6 weeks, others will take 3-4 months. The leave should stay on. Keep the plant in indirect sunlight or fluorescent bulbs.



# Witherspoon Roses

Founded in 1951 by Bob and Thelma Witherspoon, and operated by son-in-law, David Pike and daughter, Rhonda. Witherspoon Rose Culture is a wonderful source of top quality rose bushes, uniquely qualified rose maintenance, and a wealth of rose "sense" for the novice or avid rose gardener.

## "Why Roses?"

Eager to use his floriculture degree from North Carolina State College, Bob Witherspoon explored various landscaping possibilities. "On a wing, a prayer, and a truck," he began an adventure into the uncharted field of "professional rose care". With his wife, Thelma (degreed in Business Administration), he created Witherspoon Rose Culture in 1951. The business grew quickly as Bob's professional care of roses proved itself in the gardens of Durham.

In 1979, the Witherspoons' son-in-law, David Pike, joined the Witherspoon staff and began to learn the business literally from "the ground up". Under David's current leadership as president, the company continues to thrive, and rose care service is available in all the major cities of Piedmont North Carolina. The ongoing care of over 60,000 rose bushes in more than 2000 public and private rose gardens defines the unique experience of Witherspoon.

In addition to overseeing the company's operations, David is frequently asked to speak to garden clubs and other rose related organizations in several southeastern states. He enjoys sharing his appreciation of the magical flower, the rose.

In August 2002, a Tiffany rose that normally renders phlox pink blooms, began to bloom a soft champagne color on one side of the plant. This horticultural phenomenon has continued and reproduction of the luscious new rose has taken place. David named the rose R.K. Witherspoon after the founder of Witherspoon Rose Culture who passed on August 1, 2002. A parting gift from heaven to earth, and back to heaven again.

## Top Quality Rose Bushes

*Witherspoon Roses is committed to handling only the highest quality rose plants available.*

Fresh bareroot plants are dug from the vast fields of California, where the growing season is much longer and blackspot is nonexistent. Witherspoon's offers a wide selection including Hybrid Teas, Grandifloras, Floribundas, English Roses, Polyanthas, Shrubs, Climbers, Miniatures and Tree Roses.

Upon arrival in late January, the bareroot rose bushes are immediately transferred to a cool, climate controlled storage area. This unique facility helps to maintain the bushes in a dormant state. Bareroot planting is done January through March when the weather is very cool and the plants can continue their dormant state, while developing a sturdy root system. As warmer weather approaches, plants are transferred into containers and sold as potted roses through the spring. Many "Witherspoon roses" are pre-ordered and planted into private gardens maintained by Witherspoon. Others are purchased, planted and cared for by the home gardener. Direct shipping is available for the convenience of our out-of-town customers.

## Tender Loving Care

Witherspoon gives regular, consistent attention to the needs of roses. We offer preventive and corrective spraying for pests and diseases, fertilizing, pruning, mulching and planting.

In caring for over 2000 gardens, the experts at Witherspoon are trained to identify and treat various problems with the safest effective products available. Our workers have been trained in environmental safety and are licensed plant protectant applicators. In fact, our standards exceed those required by the Environmental Protection Agency. "Tender loving care" involves concern for the environment as well as the roses.

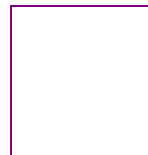


One of Harold White's favorite roses: *Hot Princess*

What is your favorite rose? Email me at:  
jva400@yahoo.com



Kathy Nicoll, VP Membership  
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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

## Consulting Rosarians

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Don & Mary Myers 919-761-1707

Consulting Rosarians are trained and very knowledgeable about roses and rose culture. Do not hesitate to contact them with any of your rose related questions.