



THORN SCRATCHINGS

Pacific Southwest District of the American Rose Society, Inc.
Newsletter
Fall 2007

Dear Rosarians:

I am Kreg Hill, your elected Director of the Pacific Southwest District of the American Rose Society. Our District is the largest within the American Rose Society with over 1,400 ARS members plus local society members. The District includes southern California, Arizona, New Mexico, El Paso, Texas, and Las Vegas and Henderson, Nevada. I am very fortunate in being able to divide my time between Albuquerque and Palm Springs. Thus, I am able to see our entire great district!

At our last District Meeting in April, held at the LA Arboretum, it was decided to end publication of *Thorn Scratchings*, our District's quarterly newsletter. As an alternative I am sending this District Newsletter by e-mail. This electronic newsletter is to be distributed by our District Membership Chairpersons, Fran and Don Hardy (FranandDon@aol.com). Don and Fran will forward this to each society president. We would then appreciate each president's forwarding it on to the members of his/her local society. As a part of their duties Fran and Don have agreed to keep the list of society presidents current.

Our District has a great website (<http://www.pswdistrict.org/index.html>). Awarded the "Queen" of the American Rose Society's Web Sites in 2006, it is maintained by knowledgeable Webmaster, Glenn Fiery (pswdistrict@yahoo.com). Glenn likes to keep our website current and post all our District's upcoming events. You may post your local society's website link, show schedules, garden tours and any other information which you feel may be of interest to other rosarians in the district. The district officers and committee chairmen are listed as well as all upcoming PSWD Events. There is also a link to the American Rose Society (<http://www.ars.org/>). These websites have everything and anything you want to know about roses – how to grow, show and arrange! Local society newsletter articles of general interest should be forwarded to Glenn for publication.

Another great asset of our District are our Horticulture and Arrangement Judges Chairmen. Sally Long (rosyvu@cox.net) is in charge of horticulture, and Marylou Coffman is in charge of arrangements (Coffmanml@aol.com). They are there to help you write the best possible schedule and would like to review all your local schedules prior to their publication. The

reason we do this is to make sure that the ARS Guidelines are followed and that all appropriate ARS Awards may be awarded to your exhibitors. If your society would be interested in hosting a workshop, school or seminar, please contact Sally or Marylou. Bert and Kay Grant (bgrant@bak.rr.com), our Chairmen of Consulting Rosarians, are also there to help you.

One resource, which our district has been lacking, is a list of all public and private gardens located within the district. Dave (space.man@cox.net) and Gerry (xrose3@cox.net) Mahoney have been undertaking this task. Please let them know about public and private gardens in your area that PSWD members would like to visit. They are especially in need of photos and the names of contacts. Another member who would appreciate information is Marcia Sanchez-Walsh, Chairman of the Show Calendar & Events Committee (larosesociety@excite.com). We are developing a master calendar for all shows and events in our District in order that conflicts be avoided insofar as possible.

The deadline for Roses in Review is September 26, 2007. Roses in Review (RIR) marks the 82nd time the members of the American Rose Society have evaluated new rose introductions. Ruth Tiffany (Ruthsgarden@msn.com) is our District Coordinator and can answer your questions. You may help in this evaluation by completing the evaluation which is published in the June 2007 *American Rose Magazine* or on line at this ARS site (<http://www.stsrv.com/rir/rirsplsh.htm>). There is a contest between the districts – I would like to win some of the special prizes for our district for the most participation. Ruth would appreciate everyone completing his or her evaluation.

I have just returned from the Fall ARS Convention held in St. Louis, MO. The American Rose Society has lost over 10,000 members, which has created financial challenges. As a member based society the ARS needs to identify additional revenue sources, not just increase its membership. I am on the ARS Financial Committee and am also chairman of an *ad hoc* committee along with district member Cliff Orent. The purpose of this *ad hoc* committee is to identify consultants in the area of nonprofit organizations who might make suggestions for improvements in governance structure and effectiveness. In response to the society's financial crunch, the *American Rose Magazine* has been reduced to five issues (bi-monthly), and the *Rose Annual* cost and membership dues have been increased. You can help greatly by asking all of your local members to join the American Rose Society and by having your society and yourself become a Patrons of the American Rose Society.

There is a positive financial aspect. The total assets of the ARS Maintenance Endowment Trust exceed 4.5 million dollars and provide additional annual revenues to ARS. I am one of the three Trustees of this Trust. The ARS has paid for the printing of *Modern Roses XII*, a beautiful publication, which is now available and may be purchased online from the ARS. Proceeds from the sales of the volume will go to the ARS.

Our next District Meeting will be held April 19-20, 2008 in Phoenix. Please mark the dates on your calendar. The meeting and show will be in a similar format as the one held this year. The next ARS Spring Convention will be held June 2008 in Denver, Colorado. The ARS Fall 2009 Convention & PSWD Convention will be in Palm Springs in the month of November. The Desert Rose Society will be asking for your help in putting on which promises to be an outstanding event.

If I may be of any help to you or your society with regard to district events, ARS happenings, or with respect to any other rose matters, please contact me.

May all our roses grow well!

Kreg B. Hill

Pacific Southwest Director of the American Rose Society, Inc.

Albuquerque (505) 345-1355 or Palm Springs (760) 320-3922

PS – Bill Christensen and I are no longer living at our Candelaria house in Albuquerque, but have kept a condo in the North Valley of Albuquerque. Our Palm Springs home has 120 rose bushes. We purchased an additional mountainside home on 2 ½ acres above Palm Springs in Morongo Valley, California. Bill thought that we had purchased the house as a “dog ranch” for our Australian Terriers, but I have moved 150 rose bushes and all my arrangement containers and materials to the Morongo Valley. I am planning to conduct some arrangement workshops there.