

KATrips

Newsletter of the Tenarky District
of the American Rose Society
<http://www.tenarky.org>

SUMMER/FALL
2009

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Upcoming Events

Tenarky District
Fall Convention
September 18-19
Louisville, KY

Welcome to incoming director Sam Jones.

Fall Convention Fast Approaching

The clock is ticking and the calendar turning toward September 18-19, the 2009 Tenarky Fall District Convention and Rose Show. This years event is hosted in Louisville by the Louisville Rose Society. The convention will take place at the Fern Valley Hotel and Conference Center, conveniently located off interstate 65.

Friday night activities will include registration beginning at 3:00 pm followed by a reception from 5:00-8:00. The

grooming room will be available for storage in the evening as well.

Grooming for the rose show will be opened at 6:00 am Saturday, and entries will be accepted until 10:00.

The afternoon program will feature Gary Barlow and Lew Shupe presenting a talk on arrangements, "What's My Line." Their program will focus on the importance of line in traditional, modern, and Oriental arrangements.

The presentation will be followed by participation—be sure to bring a container, scissors, and mechanics for a hands-on arrangement workshop.

An afternoon business meeting will be held, and the evening will conclude with a 6:00 pm banquet featuring incoming District Director Sam Jones.

See pages 14-15 for registration. Don't delay!

By Dr. Kent Campbell Bowling Green, KY

Trees as Teachers

One of the great philosophers of our age, Mr. Yogi Berra of New York's Yankee Stadium, and other baseball environs, is credited with the astute statement, "You can observe a lot by just looking." That cuts to the heart of this little essay which describes some common sights and attempts to convert

these descriptions into what were once called axioms and are called, in modern academic parlance, principles. Those who accept and use them define principles as basic truths leading to action.

Bowling Green, Kentucky, the home of this writer and several top-

flight rosarians is a city of trees, usually quite beautiful in all seasons. Being located in the mid-south, however, it can be subjected to drought conditions, especially in the late summer and fall. Sometimes this lack of rainfall affects lawns, crops, lawn plantings, and eventually, trees,

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The Rose Garden Recovery Act of 2009

You can't read the paper or watch the news without hearing disheartening news about the economy. While the federal government has passed a multibillion dollar stimulus package, Americans are suffering severe strain in their personal finances. Unemployment is near a double digit percentage with more layoffs occurring weekly. A growing percentage of mortgages are "under water" where homeowners owe more than the sale value of their house. Retirement savings have taken beating from the stock market decline over the last year. With all these strikes against us, many are in a tough predicament.

What has happened in personal finances is analogous to what happens to many of us in our rose gardens as well. Personal illness, the death or serious illness of a loved one, deteriorating health, aging, or increased responsibilities in various segments of life can cause us to lose focus and even interest in our roses for a period of time.

Having experienced trouble first hand, I'd like to share some lessons I've learned that may help you recapture some of the lost splendor of your rose garden.

Make a Tough Choice.

If you opened your mailbox and found yourself looking at 30 different bills with debts totaling \$100,000, what would you do? Your choices boil down to one of two basic options—declare bankruptcy or dig yourself out of the hole. In the rose garden, you may find yourself

in a similar situation. Are weeds and disease taking over a once beautiful garden? Do you have more bushes than you can adequately care for? Like many who find they have "more month than money," rosarians have more tasks than time. Over time, this type of financial mismanagement can lead to big trouble. The same is true in the garden.

If you find yourself in this difficult predicament, you have to make a tough choice—the rose gardening equivalent of bankruptcy (spray herbicide on the whole garden and plant herbs) or a difficult journey back towards order. This is a tough decision, one that may require soul searching and serious thought. You probably have a lot of time, money, and emotional commitment to your roses. But you may be unable to care for them as you would like to (or have in the past). In the rest of the article, I assume you have made the choice to avoid rose bankruptcy and try to literally and figuratively dig yourself out of the mess.

Set Boundaries

When you have a lot of debts and limited cash flow, the first thing to do is set boundaries. Determine what is essential and what is optional. In personal finance, this entails making a strict budget and sticking to it. In the rose garden it means establishing borders. When your rose bed doesn't have borders, the lines between the rose bed and the outside world become blurred. Mulch spills into the lawn, and the lawn creeps into the rose bed. By establishing your

rose bed's borders, you can contain and subsequently deal with the problems. Borders may be established by bricks, blocks, or timber, plastic or metal edging, even repeated applications of a total kill herbicide. The key is to clearly establish the focus of your efforts. Everything inside the bed is either a rose or a weed. Everything outside the rose bed is irrelevant.

Downsize

Is your garden one big rose bed or a lot of little ones? You may want to take a lesson from corporate America and downsize your roses. Like paying off debt, downsizing your rose garden will free up your resources (in time and money) to prioritize and take better care of the roses that matter most. You're not giving up, but you are consolidating and focusing on your core values.

Downsizing the garden may come in any of several ways. You may just not replace roses that die in the winter. You may dig up an entire bed or individual plants. Either way, you eliminate some of the resource draining materials in order to focus on saving what matters most.

It probably goes without saying (but I'll say it anyway), that part of downsizing means not adding more roses--don't get any more plants. Don't replace any, buy any, take any cuttings, or bud any more roses for now. I'm not saying never buy another plant, but don't do it this year.

By Kent Campbell

Director's Column

August 1, 2009: Today I write my last District Director's column for *Katnips*. It has been an eventful, often exciting, and always memorable six years. At the fall Tenarky convention in Louisville, September 18 and 19, I will pass the gavel to your new Director, Sam Jones. If he receives the cooperation and participation from you that I have received for my tenure, Tenarky can only continue to be a leading force among the ARS Districts.

First, I want to give a huge salute and prayerful thank you to our *Katnips* editor, Robert Sutherland. A little over six years ago, he told me he would accept the job as long as I was Director. He has kept his promise, even through the unimaginable difficulty of the dark days of his lovely wife's serious illness. This will be Robert's last issue, but our prayers continue to go out for them every time we bow to our Lord.

I can't thank all our officers enough. They have all been great and have done sterling jobs. As happens at our age, and over a long time span, there have been personal and family health issues, business activity, and always the expenses and time involved in fulfilling their offices. But they have been the Best with a capital B! I will be honored to recognize them at the September convention.

There is another matter which has me very perturbed. By the time you read this you will know the results of our triennial national elections. The national vice president, who will become the president of ARS in the fall of 2012, was elected by three votes. That is acceptable, but nationally, fewer than 15 percent of our membership bothered to vote. In Region four, which includes Kentucky, Indiana, Michigan, Ohio, and Ontario, Canada, fewer than 250 votes were cast, and I lost to former ARS president Jim Hering

for the position of regional director. Losing is NOT what is unacceptable! It is the obvious lack of concern by "John Q. Member" in the affairs and leadership of the Society.

The American Rose Society simply must do something to make itself more important to we members and local societies out here in the real world. Most of us love our hobby, love our local colleagues, and love our local and even district activities. But what about that "far away place with the strange sounding name", to quote a popular song of the 40's, called Shreveport?

I, for one, am going to begin a letter writing campaign to officers and board members of ARS urging them to get busy and become a significant part of my rose life! I look forward to seeing all of you in Louisville in September. We really need to support each other, and besides, it's informative and it's fun!

Continued from page 1

Trees

especially if occurring two or three years in a row.

Brown lawns tend to be taken for granted, so to speak, when they occur. But trees of all types and all sizes, in their great majesty, which succumb to the situation attracts one's attention. Indeed, there's a feeling of pity, and of loss for everybody, when viewing the passing of such potentially long-lived beauty.

Having said all this and returning our thoughts to Mr. Berra's statement, it seems appropriate to make some order of just what has been seen and just what it can mean to our rose growing community. This short work does not take into account the price trees pay for the work of insects. For example, a certain pine-bark beetle has destroyed entire pine forests in the



mid-south in the past very few years. We all can remember the

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Trees

stately Elm trees which graced many of our cities years ago but eventually lost the national battle to a certain fungus, as did the mountain Chestnuts years before. We shall be mainly concerned here with how plants react to adverse environmental conditions.

Mother Nature abhors weaklings and lends all her support to the strong.

There are, in nature, trees that are especially attuned to being undergrowth, and in the natural environs of the forest thrive as the small fellows in the shade of their taller companions. The Dogwood is such a tree, but most all other hardwoods and pines do not adapt well as an underling when crowded by stronger or more mature trees, and will be the first to die in hard times. When overcrowded and water and nourishment becomes scarce, the weak will pay a stiff price for their weakness. The dominant plants will rob their smaller companions of life's needs.

An application of this very basic thought to the rose bed is that the plants will respond positively if not overcrowded to the point that air current, water, and sunshine are not easily available to all. Rose growers soon learn that some plants are much larger than others when mature. These could be grouped by sections or planted in a row on the North side of a bed.

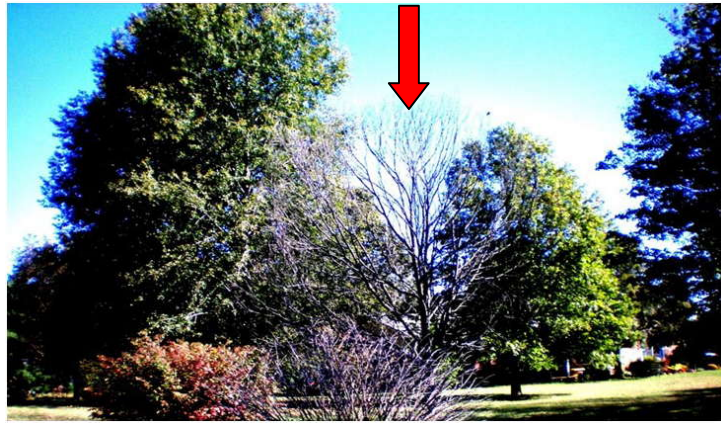
When replacing a plant by a new specimen, a mini, for example, will not do well when overshadowed by large,

mature bushes. Again, groupings of like-sized bushes in distinct sections of a bed from the very beginning will avoid the trouble being referred to here.

One last thought about natural response by the strong should be remembered when pruning. Always be aware of the effect called "apical dominance." That is the means wherein the tallest canes of

tering a rose bed by hand, more water must be made available for the very large, especially tall bushes, than smaller ones. A good look at the top leaves of the tallest bushes throughout the rosebed will tell one what needs to be known.

Trees growing on ground that slopes will generally suffer for lack of water.



Example 1 shows a mature tree, so dominated by its taller and stronger neighbors, that it has succumbed to drought conditions.

Water flows downhill. When the ground is hard, water flows downhill faster. For trees or any bush, to receive the benefit of water, it must soak into the ground and

a plant, or the tallest side, for example, will quickly dominate the plant unless cut back to a height even with the rest of the canes.

When in trouble, or even dying, trees show stress at the top first, and die from the top down.

Logic suggests that if the cause of the problem is lack of water, for example, a plant will try to send whatever intake it manages up the system from its roots. If there isn't enough for the entire job at hand, the part of the plant it reaches first, the lower and middle sections, will use most of it, leaving the top with too little for its needs, or perhaps none at all.

Logic also dictates that when wa-



Example 2 shows a tree well on its way to death. Close inspection will note, however, full foliage still near the bottom of the tree.

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Example 3 is of two dead specimens on hard sloping ground that allowed the available rainfall as easy “runoff” to ditches below.

reach the feeder roots. There is some benefit, of course, from moisture on the leaves and especially the underside of leaves, but by and large, the root system provides the life maintaining supply of water to the plant.

Applied to roses, one must be aware that beds built on a slope need a fill of ultra soft and highly absorbent dirt mixture. Better still, follow what ancient civilizations learned centuries ago, build beds that are terraced with each section level, so the water will be distributed evenly.

Water is easily diverted away from trees too close to roadways, sidewalks, building eaves, and structures of all types.

The feeder root system of all plants usually exceeds the circumference of the plant’s branches. Simply because the trunk, or stem, of a plant is in soil is no guarantee that the available water soaking into that area will be sufficient for the plant if the feeder roots are under some type of solid

cover.

Roses used as foundation plantings do not always do well. Assuming ample sunshine, which varies greatly during the year because of sun direction and overhanging eaves, root restriction will cause trouble. Conversely,

roses do better in well-placed beds with room for air and water, and given space for growth to maturity.



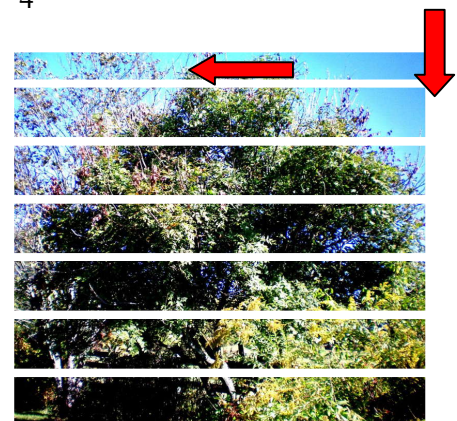
The mature oak in Example 4 (above) had been showing stress for two years. It finally lost life’s battle for water because more than half its root system was covered by the drive and the roadway. Also, the drainage ditch allowed for a quick “run-off” of available water.

Trees that have suffered stress have a remarkable ability to recover, but it usually takes time, even years.

Of course some plants are more durable and resilient than others. Roses, for example, are quite strong once they are well-established. Often, a rose that is inviting replacement because of seasonal damage, will be well and productive again by the next season if cared-for patiently, or perhaps moved to a more ideal spot.

The Tree of Paradise and Redbud shown in Example 5 both suffered extensive damage in the “Easter freeze” of 2007 in Kentucky. Yet one year later they both have recovered to the point that only the tips of some branches have failed to respond.

It is the belief of this writer, that much of the seeming complexity of rose growing can be assembled into some logical statements of what is called “common sense.” And the “common sense” of enjoying the green world encompasses plant life as a whole. Trees are a large, and if you will, magnificent, portrayer of that entire system of life. Going back to Mr. Berra, it seems like indisputably intelligent advice to “look and learn!” Ω



Triennial Election Decision

On July 31, the American Rose Society certified the results of the Triennial elections. Most of the races were uncontested, but the competitive race for Vice President (the winner of which would assume the Presidency in three years) was determined to be a three vote victory for Jolene Adams. Fewer than 10% of the members of the ARS cast their vote for the winner.

Despite multiple irregularities, including the untimely infection and temporary decommissioning of the ARS website, and a questionable decision by the counting committee regarding duplicate ballots, the election was certified and the decision defended by the highest officers within the ARS.

The election results were protested by Bob Martin. His protest was based on four points: 1) The decision by the counting committee in the handling of duplicate ballots effectively determined the election outcome (some people voted both electronically and hard copy). 2) Suspected problems with the e-voting as evidenced by the abysmally low turnout. 3) The alleged unfair advantage taken by Jolene Adams, the ARS webmistress, providing supporters a last minute workaround for e-voting, and 4) The inappropriateness of the website selected for the contest. The full text of the protest is available at <http://www.roseshow.com>.

The protest was rejected by Executive Director Jeffrey Ware and outgoing President Steve Jones.

At least two public responses have been made to ARS members, one by incoming President Jeff Wyckoff, and another by Steve Jones. These memos appear below and represent the opinions of the writers. If you wish to express your support or disappointment in the decision and processes that led to it, feel free to contact the writers at the email addresses provided. No doubt the incoming officers have a monumental task ahead of them to attempt to build bridges, heal wounds, and reestablish trust in an organization that currently has its lowest membership in recent memory. Steve Jones referenced the hard feelings that lingered after the 2000 Presidential election where the Supreme Court effectively decided the next President of the United States. Fortunately, the country and electoral process survived that decision. Will the American Rose Society be as resilient?

Bob Martin's response to the rejection of his protest of the election results, from Rose-show.com

AMERICAN ROSE SOCIETY SAYS MEMBERS DON'T COUNT

The 2009 Triennial Election of the American Rose Society was a fraud on its members. Here is the story of that fraud with links to the actual documents. Judge for yourself whether the American Rose Society, a public nonprofit

membership corporation, believes that its members count.

- v There were two announced candidates for ARS Vice President, me and Jolene Adams. Under ARS bylaws the Vice President serves for three years and automatically becomes President for another three years.
- v For the first time in its history, instead of conducting an election by first class mail, the ARS decided to save money by conducting its election with ballots contained in the American Rose Magazine and through an electronic process accessed through its website.
- v Under the process adopted, a member was instructed to cast a ballot electronically or by mail. There was nothing to stop them from doing both.
- v The board of directors was informed at its Vancouver Board meeting in July by Jolene Adams - the webmaster - that all ballots would be discarded for anyone who voted twice.
- v This practice was not followed in counting the ballots with the result being a 3-vote victory for Jolene Adams.
- v Had all ballots been discarded for those who voted twice – both electronic and by mail - the result would have been a tie. Jolene was at the counting and failed to remind the Tally Committee of what she said in Vancouver.
- v The turnout of 14% of the membership - down 40% from the last election - and the re-

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- ported existence of less than 700 electronic ballots, showed there was a major problem with the electronic voting option.
- v The ARS website that provided access to the electronic voting site was infected by an insidious virus for a minimum of a month before the ballots were counted, with security programs blocking all access to the website.
 - v The ARS website was taken down because of this virus more than a week before the close of balloting.
 - v Jolene Adams, as the ARS webmaster, was aware of the decline in traffic to the site, that the website had been compromised and that it had been subsequently taken down. Neither she, nor ARS HQ advised me of this fact.
 - v Instead, Jolene took advantage of the lack of access to the ARS website by sending a mass e-mail and conducting a telephone campaign during the last week of the campaign to provide her supporters with the link around the ARS website and directly to the voting website.
 - v The ARS election result was reported to me after the close of business on Friday, July 31.
 - v On Monday, August 3, I filed a [protest of the election results, a copy of which can be read by clicking here.](#)
 - v Alarmed by the growing reaction to the protest, ARS President Emeritus Jim Hering proposed a compromise that would accept the election as a tie, make one candidate a first

Vice-President and the other a second Vice-President, with each to follow in turn as President.

- v I promptly accepted that settlement proposal in the interest of advancing the welfare of the ARS and generously conceded to Jolene the position of being the first Vice-President. [A copy of the correspondence regarding the proposed compromise may be seen by clicking here.](#)
- v Jolene never responded to the proposal. Instead, almost immediately after its delivery, outgoing ARS President Steve Jones delivered a letter purportedly on behalf of the Executive Committee – on which Jolene has sat for two years – in which he summarily rejected my protest based upon the preposterous conclusion that my protest was delivered too late and that the electronic voting system was **not** compromised. [That letter may be seen here.](#)
- v On Friday August 7, Steve Jones delivered to me a letter bearing the name of Executive Director, Jeff Ware – whose e-mail has been responding all week with an out of office message stating that he is out of the office on vacation, will not be checking email and will return to the office on August 19.
- v That letter summarily rejects my protest by reaching the absurd conclusion that my protest of the ballot count was delivered too late and that the electronic voting process was not compromised. [That rejection letter may be seen here.](#)
- v This letter defends the elec-

- tronic voting process with the incredibly stupid statement that "Only the access to the online voting page FROM our ARS web site was affected" by the virus. This is like saying that the voting machines worked but "only" the door to the polling place was locked.
- v As a result of the foregoing, 85% of the members of the American Rose Society had no votes recorded, while the 7.5% who voted for me were deprived of their vote. Jolene Adams has been declared elected with the support of but 7.5% of the membership of the American Rose Society.

The message from the ARS is clear: "**Members do not count**". Mahmoud Ahmadinejad would be proud.

Bob Martin

Memo from Jeff Wyckoff received August 17, 2009

Dear ARS Members:

Following the publication in *The ARS & You* of messages from the ARS Executive Board and from Executive Director Jeff Ware and President Steve Jones regarding the recent Triennial Elections, there remain among our membership a number of questions regarding *why* the E.C. and E.D. acted as they did, and *why* we cannot redo the election for ARS Vice President. The following items attempt to address these questions and concerns, and to explain in more detail the conditions and events surrounding the election.

Regarding the online voting system:

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Election

The proposed Bylaw change allowing both electronic and paper ballots was approved by the Board at Shreveport in 2008, and was presented to the membership in the Sept/Oct. *American Rose*. The change was overwhelming ratified by the membership.

In preparation for the elections, the system was tested and debugged as much as possible. As Jeff Ware said in his letter in *The ARS & You*, the voting was hosted by eTapestry on a secure site that was chosen specially for the first ARS electronic balloting.

All e-ballots, as well as paper ballots, went directly to the auditing firm of Heard, McElroy & Vestal, and were not opened until July 31st at the Klima Center in Shreveport. There is **no way** anyone on ARS staff, either of the candidates, or anyone else could have know who voted, how many votes had been cast, or for whom they had been cast.

Regarding the failure of the ARS website:

Jeff Ware informed the Board in an e-mail dated July 24 that the ARS website had been taken down due to continued hacking. The site was actually taken down sometime prior to this.

The eTapestry site that handled the voting was unaffected by the failure of the ARS site. All that was affected was members' ability to get to the voting site from a link on the ARS page.

Members who found access to the voting site blocked through the failure of the ARS website had two op-

tions:

They could have called or e-mailed the ARS to find out how to get to the online voting site

They could have voted by paper ballot, which they still had plenty of time to get in the mail.

It has been suggested that the ARS website failure benefitted Jolene Adams as ARS Webmistress, as she was able to circumvent this impediment and get the word out to her supporters who had not yet voted how to get to the voting site. It would seem to me both candidates had an equal opportunity to react to the website failure as they wished, with phone calls, group e-mails, or whatever means they chose.

A review of the electronic votes for each VP candidate show 331 votes cast for Bob Martin and 329 cast for Jolene Adams. These figures tend to negate the argument that Jolene received an unfair "bump" in e-votes due to the website's failure.

Regarding the Executive Committee's endorsement of the election results:

If either candidate felt that the online voting system was compromised or dysfunctional, they had ample opportunity to protest the election prior to the vote counting on July 31; **they did not**. Both candidates, or their representatives, had the opportunity to protest the election prior to the certification of the results by the ARS Tally Committee and the auditors; **they did not**.

According to the ARS Bylaws, no protests can be entertained once the results have been certified.

According to the Bylaws, the

ARS Board of Directors cedes all responsibility to the Tally Committee for the overseeing of Triennial elections.

The Tally Committee consulted with the auditors over the issue of those people who voted both online and with a paper ballot. They apparently came to the conclusion that these were the result of confusion over the new system and not attempts at fraud. Therefore, they made an *ad hoc* decision to record one vote from each of these individuals.

Whatever Board members heard, or thought they heard, at the Vancouver Board meeting regarding duplicate votes is immaterial. The Tally Committee members did not commit themselves on how they would treat duplicate electronic and paper votes.

This decision by the Tally Committee was not protested by either candidate or their representative prior to the certification of the results.

Regarding the possibility of redoing the VP election:

For the Board to set aside the VP election would be a clear violation of ARS Bylaws. This would not only leave us vulnerable to a lawsuit, but could also jeopardize our tax-exempt status. Perhaps most importantly, it would completely undermine our integrity as an organization. We **must** abide by our Bylaws rather than violating them and taking an easy way out.

A compromise suggested by President Emeritus Jim Hering, whereby Jolene Adams would become "1st VP" and Bob Martin would become "2nd VP" and automatically move up to first VP upon Jolene's assuming the Presi-

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gency would also be in clear violation of ARS Bylaws, with the same results as above.

There has been no attempt by ARS leadership to stonewall the membership with regard to the election; it simply has taken time to check information and prepare suitable responses. We value all of our members and appreciate your concern over the integrity of the ARS and its functioning. If the material above does not answer all your questions, I invite you to write to me directly with them, and I'll get back to you as soon as possible. Thanks you for your involvement with the American Rose Society.

Jeff Wyckoff
ARS President-Elect
kjwyckoff@comcast.net

Memo from Steve Jones published in *ARS & You*, August 19, 2009.

The Election and ARS

I know many of you were disappointed about the close results of the election and the rumors running rampant about the voting system being affected, the virus attack on the website, duplicate ballots not handled properly, etc. I for one and the ARS Executive Committee did not take this lightly. As soon as we received the protest, we immediately started to research each of the points of the protest, talked with the ARS Parliamentarian, the outside independent auditor, two outside counsels who researched Louisiana non-profit laws, a computer systems expert, then researched our own bylaws, policies and procedures.

I share in your frustration over the election. I did not want to have paper ballots in the first place, just electronic, but the Board outvoted me. Was the election perfect? No. There are a lot of things we need to work on for future elections. I believe if we go 100% electronic next time these issues will not happen. I know Jeff Wyckoff is planning to address these issues during his term as your President.

After our discussions and research, what we found, which is the keystone to this whole election process, is in the ARS Constitution, aka the bylaws. As your President, it is my job to enforce the bylaws of the ARS. According to our bylaws, there is no mechanism to overturn an election once it is certified. Plain and simple. **If there were issues or protests about the election, then the election should have never been certified in the first place.** The election ended when the Tally Committee, outside auditor, and **both observers from the two candidates agreed nothing more can be done and the vote was certified.** Then the election was officially over. Using a common adage at rose shows, the judges' decision is final.

Therefore, any other claims against the election were immaterial. However, during our discussions, the EC found none of the claims could be substantiated. I will cover some of them later on in this letter.

We had a lot of issues and suggestions to invalidate the election or create a special position for the losing candidate. The bylaws do

not allow any of the recommendations and for the Board to even try any of them it is illegal, could result in a lawsuit ARS would never win, and could severely damage our non-profit, tax exempt status, which would destroy ARS as we know it today. Plus it would take away the right of any other qualified person to run in 2012. The EC refused to consider any of these options because they were illegal. To change the bylaws, the Board would have to discuss them at a meeting. Then if it passes, the ARS membership would have to vote to ratify the change. A passing margin would then change the bylaws. Let me add however, this would only apply to future elections, not this one. The bylaws do not allow do-overs.

Before I go into some specifics on the election, let me ask a question. If the tables were reversed and the other candidate had won, would you still be writing the same e-mails and threatening to resign? I personally doubt it. If we did anything different, then we would have a whole new set of complaints and threats to resign. For me this election was a no win situation. Members will be unhappy regardless for many years to come, just like the Bush-Gore decision in Florida. Our decision had nothing to do with who we voted for or their personalities, those were put aside and we only concentrated on the process. In our discussions, I purposely excluded VP candidate Jolene Adams even though she is on the Executive Committee. I have to protect the ARS, it is my job. The EC had to look at the process and

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Election

determine if the election was carried out legally according to the bylaws. There have been claims ARS does not care about its membership. That is the furthest thing from the truth. ARS is my number one job. We were deciding for the good of the ARS and all members, not a select few individuals who were unhappy.

You have to remember this is a hobby, we are volunteers and we don't do this to make money. We are here for the love of the rose, our national floral emblem. I would like you to look at this situation, unbiased, while in my shoes, and think solely about the ARS and our bylaws and not who you voted for, and see if you would have done anything differently that would not violate our bylaws.

Here are a few specifics I would like to address.

Duplicate Ballots

The bylaws are our bible. The Board of Directors operates according to Robert's Rules of Order (RRO) as stated in the bylaws. The Tally Committee as an action committee was in effect the Board of Directors during the election. Their action dealing with the duplicate ballots by counting one and dismissing the others was done in accordance with RRO, which states: "*Should the recipient of the ballots receive two evidently sent in by the same voter... **the most recent** is to be counted. As with respect to the nonsecret ballots,*

electronic mail and other means of electronic communications may be able to be tailored to comply with the above requirements for secret mail balloting."

The Virus & The ARS Website

For our members to understand how the virus could not have affected the voting website here is a simplistic synopsis of the way our website and server works.

Imagine the ARS website is a house. All of the information is inside the "house" and you can walk in anytime as the door is always open. However, if you wish to vote, you go to the ARS "house" and it is locked with a sign up saying "Please go next door to vote." So you go next door and the door is open for you to vote. If the ARS "house" burns down (virus) it does not affect the house next door. The sign will be reposted directing people to the house next door, but the ARS "house" is gone. But once the sign is put up after the fire, you know you can still go next door. I know this is simplistic, but it is important to understand the virus did not affect the voting program other than to knock down the "sign" for a day or two. Other ARS programs such as Roses In Review and Modern Roses 12 were not affected by the virus because they are housed elsewhere as well.

Voters were not allowed to vote from the link on the ARS site for a day or two. If they were concerned, they could have called

ARS or simply mail in the paper ballot since there was plenty of time. The virus hit roughly on July 17 and all ballots had to be received at the auditors by noon on July 31.

Access To The Voting Database

There have been claims people had access to the information from the voting database. This is absolutely not true. No ARS staff or member had access to the program, not even me. The access is through eTapestry or our outside auditors who have the passwords. If I need information, I have to ask our auditors.

Low Voter Turnout

I, like everyone else, was surprised about the low voter turnout. During the election the auditors were in contact with eTapestry to see if there were any glitches in the program. None were found. I can tell you 70% of the votes occurred before July which is what you would expect. Most people if they don't vote right away, they forget. The votes kept trickling in each week before and after the virus hit our website. I think there are a few reasons for the low turn-out. One is the members did not get a separate ballot mailed directly to them and they were not comfortable with the new change. The ballot was in the magazine (which was the old way of voting) and the magazine had the code for electronic voting. When I got my magazine, I couldn't figure out

Attention Judges And Consulting Rosarians

Don't forget that end of year reports are required for CRs and Judges. See <http://www.tenarky.org>
For forms and reporting procedure.

Sad News in Tenarky

Since the publication of the last KATnips, Tenarky has lost two of our finest rosarians. We offer our sincerest condolences to their family and friends.

Glenda Whitaker
Roy Guthrie

The Nashville Rose Society paid tribute to Glenda in the June issue of *Rose Leaves*.

The Tri-State Rose Society honored Roy in the Summer 2009 issue of *Basal Breaks*.

Recovery

Reestablish Control

You've established borders, stopped buying plants, and downsized to a more manageable garden. You may still have multiple beds that you just can't bring yourself to dig up and replace with grass. The beds may be weedy and diseased, but they're important enough to save. Let's work on reestablishing control of the bed.

Make All Minimum Payments

How do you eat an elephant, according to the old joke? One bite at a time. How do you pay off \$100,000 in bills? One dollar at a time. And how do you reestablish control of a rose garden? One square foot at a time. If you're paying off credit card bills, you have to make the minimum payment in order to avoid penalties and fees. Interest will still accrue, but unless you have a large sum of cash, this is unavoidable. In gardening terms, you don't have infinite time, resources, and energy, so you have to prioritize the tasks to be done. Here is a suggestion:

Cut back on watering and feeding and divert that time to weeding. Don't stop feeding and watering—just slow down. Cut your feeding in half and your watering by a third. If your garden is overgrown with weeds, the fertilizer and water are probably going disproportionately to them. The roses may temporarily slow down, but so will the weeds. The time you save should be focused on eliminating

weeds. First, take care of anything that has or is about to go to seed. When those dandelions turn into puff balls, one plant will spawn dozens. When nutsedge shows seeds, you're on the cusp of a multi-year problem if you don't act quickly. When you pull or dig the weeds, make sure you carefully get as many seeds as possible and don't just spread them around the bed or yard.

Then Knock off the Debts One at a Time

After getting all the seedy weeds, choose one bed, or even one part of a bed. Spend a half hour or a half day cleaning the weeds and establishing a beachhead. It's like paying extra principal on your credit card bill—paying down the big debt a little at a time, and creating islands of order in a chaotic rose bed a few square inches at a time.

The next time you return to the garden, get the seedy weeds (which should be fewer than the previous time), and widen your area of control. Over time, you will make more progress with the same amount of effort, like paying down interest charging debts. Take care of this one bed at a time, then move on to the next until the garden is back to the condition you want.

Prevent Relapses

After becoming debt free, what could be worse than going back into debt? After cleaning up a garden, what could be worse than losing control again? We should do what we can to prevent a re-

currence of the problems that we just solved. To prevent weeds, use effective prevention means—preemergent herbicide (like Preen), synthetic coverings, and generous applications of organic mulch. To prevent disease, use proper hygiene and good judgment—start with choosing varieties that require the amount of care you are willing to give. If you have a 'Knock Out' amount of time to devote to the garden, don't expect to get good results with higher maintenance varieties. Also, use time saving techniques. Automate tasks like watering, feeding, and spraying as much as possible. The time saved can be substantial and prevent the loss of control over the garden.

And finally, get help! As one could seek the wise counsel of an honest debt counselor, so the rosarian can find assistance and not go at this alone. You may find help in the form of your children, spouse, neighbors, or rose society members. Or you may pay for someone to help maintain the garden, either temporarily or permanently. With a good plan and the stick-to-itiveness to follow it, you can reclaim an underperforming garden and turn it back into a source of joy. After that, maybe we fix the federal budget problems. Ω

Best Wishes to Kent Campbell, undergoing surgery to remove a cancerous tumor on August 18. He plans to see us in September in Louisville.

Continued from page 10

Election

which number to use. I called our Executive Director and said the instructions on the website needed to be clearer. A day or so later, the full instructions were up on the site and Susie and I voted without a problem. It was nice to get a receipt to know our votes went through. My next thought was neither candidate did a mass mail out so they didn't reach the masses who might have voted. Lastly, the membership doesn't care about who runs ARS. I think both candidates were so well qualified, members were happy with either one of them. The bottom line is we will never know. But we do know the voter site ran the way it was designed; **it recorded every vote cast.**

eTapestry Is Not A Voting System

From Marily Young Williams, a past ARS Board member and a computer software and database design expert for over 40 years, comes this comment about eTapestry. Marily maintains both the Roses In Review and Modern Roses 12 databases for the ARS.

Let me comment on the use of eTapestry as the host service for electronic voting. Although it is true that eTapestry may not have been specifically designed to support electronic voting, it was not designed to NOT support it. This is a very important statement. Any implication that the design of the site would have caused votes to be lost is totally unfounded. I, as a professional web site pro-

grammer, maintain a library of what we call "re-usable" code: basic routines to handle database access, editing, security, sign-on, etc. These routines work as "drop-ins" for whatever function we choose and provide the flexibility that give the Internet its power. This flexibility is the key to multi-purpose use and gives sites like eTapestry their value. I have full confidence in the use of the site, and I do not believe there was any failure that would affect the validity of the voting process.

Jolene Had An Unfair Advantage Because She Is The Webmistress When The Virus Hit

I don't see how this was an unfair advantage. Both candidates had the voting link on their websites from the beginning. The Board was informed about the virus when it hit. The voting link was back on a temporary website after a day or so. Both candidates had ample time to send global e-mails to their mailing lists about the virus. In fact, at the end of the election, Bob Martin had a lead of three (3) more votes in the electronic ballots than Jolene who lead [*sic*]in the paper ballots.

How Could Jeff Ware Write The August 7 E-mail When On Vacation?

Before he left on vacation, Jeff wrote about 85% of our joint e-mail. Plus we were in constant contact while he was on vacation to finalize the letter.

I hope this answers your questions about the election and our thought process and decisions. I know some ARS members will not be happy, I don't think they ever are during elections, but we have to remember this is a great hobby and we have to put our personal prejudices aside for the good of the organization. Making unfounded accusations really hurts all of us who love this hobby. There are a lot of lessons to be learned from this election and we have to make sure these problems don't happen again as we move on enjoying our hobby, roses and fellow rosarians.

Sincerely,

S t e v e J o n e s
ARS President

Ω

Thank You

For your feedback, articles, support, and prayers over the last six years.

And special thanks to Claire Campbell, who, along with creating and managing the website and handling Kent's correspondence, provided much of the news and items needed for pulling together this newsletter over the years. She even proofread, saving me from several embarrassing errors.

Roses to All.
Robert Sutherland

**Tenarky District of the American Rose Society
Fall Rose Show and Conference**

September 18 –19, 2009
Fern Valley Hotel and Conference Center
2715 Fern Valley Rd. Louisville, KY

Program

Friday, September 18, 2009

<i>Activity</i>	<i>Time</i>	<i>Room</i>
Registration	3 pm – 8 pm	Convention Center Lobby
Reception <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Food • Cash Bar/tables 	5 pm – 8 pm	Riva Ridge Winners Circle
Grooming Room (Available for rose storage)	7pm –9 pm	Pleasant Colony

Saturday, September 19, 2008

<i>Activity</i>	<i>Time</i>	<i>Room</i>
Registration	6:30 am – 9:30 am	Convention Center Lobby
Vendors	9:30 am	Convention Center Lobby
Grooming Room	6 am – 10 am	Pleasant Colony
Rose Show Entries Close	10 am	Winners Circle
Workshop “What’s My Line” arrangements by Gary Barlow and Lew Shupe	2pm - 4pm	Pleasant Colony
Tenarky Business Meeting	4:15pm – 5 pm	Pleasant Colony
Trophy Pick-UP	5 pm – 6 pm	Winners Circle
Cash Bar	5:30pm – 6:30pm	Winners Circle
Banquet Buffet <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assorted Salads (3) • Beef Bourguignon • Chicken Rosemary • Tortellini Alfredo (vegetarian) • Assorted Vegetables (3) • Dessert Choices (5) • Coffee, Decaf, Iced Tea 	6 pm – 8 pm	Winners Circle
Keynote Speaker Sam Jones – Incoming Tenarky Director	7:15 pm – 8 pm	Winners Circle
Remove Roses and Arrangements	8pm – 9pm	Winners Circle

**Tenarky District of the American Rose Society
Fall Rose Show and Conference**

September 18 –19, 2009
Fern Valley Hotel and Conference Center
2715 Fern Valley Rd. Louisville KY

Registration fees are mandatory for all who attend. This covers the Friday night social, Saturday rose show and workshop, and the Saturday night buffet banquet. Make checks payable to the Louisville Rose Society and send to:

Janet Miller
3062 University Rd
Louisville KY 40206-1320

Please list all who are registering

Name		Name	
Address		Address	
City		City	
State /Zip		State /Zip	
Society		Society	
Phone No.		Phone No.	
E-mail		E-mail	

<u>No of people</u>	<u>Cost</u>	<u>Total</u>
_____	\$90.00 (\$95 after Sep 11)	_____

No money will be refunded if registrations are canceled on or after September 11, 2009

Make your own hotel reservations with the Fern Valley Hotel, 2715 Fern Valley Rd. Louisville KY. (I65 Exit 128) **1-877-964-3311**. Indicate that you are requesting the member’s special rate for the Tenarky District Conference and Rose Show. Please make your reservation by **September 1** to be assured a room (single, or double) at the special rate of \$70 plus tax. (On-line booking may show no availability).

KATnips

c/o Robert Sutherland
3741 Dicksonia Drive
Lexington, KY 40517-1906

KATnips

Visit Tenarky's website at
www.tenarky.org

Contact the editor:
robertje@insightbb.com



'Baldo Villegas' is a great new rose from Whit Wells named for a great rosarian.

KATnips is the semi-annual newsletter of the Tenarky District of the American Rose Society. Tenarky encompasses members of the American Rose Society residing in the states of Tennessee, Eastern Arkansas, and Kentucky. The newsletter is provided free in electronic format. Photos and articles, along with positive and negative feedback may be directed to the editor at the above address or by email at robertje@insightbb.com.

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