

2010 AWARD OF EXCELLENCE WINNERS

by Jim Hering • 1050 Kingwood Drive • Marion, OH 43302



The Award of Excellence, a designation of merit given to new miniature and Mini-Flora rose varieties of superior quality and marked distinction, was established by the Ameri-

can Rose Society Board of Directors 36 years ago. Since the inception of the Award, 110 AOE winners have been named.

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Unnamed seedlings or sports of miniature or Mini-Flora varieties are submitted by commercial and amateur hybridizers for evaluation for two years in 10 AOE public test gardens, spaced geographically across the United States. Each public garden has an

AOE supervisor and five evaluators. Entries are scored on 11 criteria four times during each growing season. At the end of the trial period, Awards of Excellence are given to deserving seedlings, with a maximum of five per year. The 10 public test gardens are: American Rose Center, Shreveport, LA; Fernbank Science Center, Atlanta, GA; Ringling Gardens, Sarasota, FL; Hershey Gardens, Hershey, PA; Toledo Botanical Gardens, Toledo, OH; Mesa Community College Garden, Phoenix, AZ; Rose Hills Memorial Park, Whittier, CA; International Rose Test Garden, Portland, OR; Virginia Clemens Rose Garden, St. Cloud, MN; and Edisto Memorial Gardens, Orangeburg, SC.

The official public announcement of the Award of Excellence winners is made each year at the awards banquet at the ARS National Miniature Rose Show and Conference. In 2007, 24 seedlings were entered into the trials by seven hybridizers. After two years of evaluation, four Award of Excellence winners were selected. The 2010



Left to right: Robbie Tucker, Jim Hering and Frank Bernardella celebrate the announcement of the AOE winners at the National Miniature Conference in Harrisburg, PA.

John Mattia

ARS AWARD OF EXCELLENCE WINNERS

1975

'Beauty Secret'
'Judy Fischer'
'Lavender Lace'
'Magic Carrousel'
'Mary Marshall'
'Over the Rainbow'
'Sheri Anne'
'Starglo'
'Toy Clown'
'White Angel'

1976

'Hula Girl'
'Peachy White'
'Red Cascade'

1977

'Jeanne Lajoie'
'Peaches'n' Cream'

1978

'Avandel'
'Gloriglo'
'Humdinger'
'Rise'n'Shine'

1979

'Cuddles'
'Puppy Love'
'Red Flush'
'Zinger'

1980

'Holy Toledo'
'Pink Petticoat'

1981

'Pacesetter'
'Party Girl'

1982

'Center Gold'

1983

'Corn silk'
'Cupcake'
'Hombre'
'Snow Bride'
'Valerie Jeanne'

1984

'Baby Eclipse'
'Hot Shot'
'Julie Ann'
'Little Jackie'

1985

'Black Jade'
'Centerpiece'
'Jennifer'
'Loving Touch'
'Winsome'

1986

'Jean Kenneally'
'Rainbow's End'

1987

'Ring of Fire'
'Sequoia Gold'

1988

'Old Glory'
'Heavenly Days'

1989

'Dee Bennett'
'Nighthawk'
'Tipper'
'Jim Dandy'

1990

'Regine'



courtesy Frank Benardella

'Magic Show'

AOE winners, announced in Harrisburg, PA, on July 18, 2009, are 'Magic Show', 'First and Foremost', 'Daddy Frank' and 'Spirit Dance'.

'Magic Show'
(BENjets)

This outstanding red blend AOE winner from Frank Benardella is a true miniature. It has a well-rounded bush growing between 18 and 24 inches tall



Patsy Cunningham

'First and Foremost'

'First and Foremost'
(BENrtime)

This deep pink Mini-Flora with a lighter reverse and a white center is also hybridized by Frank Benardella. Borne on a plant that is healthy and vigorous are an abundance of exhibition quality blooms with color shading, which adds to their beauty and attraction. Flowers are extremely long-lasting on the plant and even longer as cut flowers, mak-

1991

'Golden Halo'
'Good Morning'
America'
'Just For You'
'Suzy'

1992

'Cal Poly'
'Debidue'
'Figurine'
'Sincerely Yours'

1993

'Billie Teas'
'Boomerang'
'Child's Play'
'Kristin'
'Palmetto Sunrise'

1994

'Hot Tamale'

1995

'Jingle Bells'

1996

'Angelica Renae'

1997

'Tropical Twist'

1998

'Playgold'

1999

'Little Flame'
'Autumn Splendor'
'Little Tommy
Tucker'
'Sweet Caroline'

2000

'Applause'
'Lemon Gems'
'Ralph Moore'

2001

'Michel Cholet'
'Ruby'
'Sun Sprinkles'

2002

'Best Friends'
'Merlot'
'Sweet Diana'

2003

'This is the Day'
'Doris Morgan'
'Baby Boomer'

2004

'Salute'
'Picotee'
'Andie MacDowell'

2005

'Harm Saville'
'Chattooga'
'Life Lines'

2006

'Baby Bloomer'
'Caliente'
'Iced Raspberry'

2007

'Saluda'
'Bonfire'
'Leading Lady'

2008

'Edisto'
'Joy'
'Show Stopper'
'Power Point'

2009

'Ambiance'
'Deja Blu'
'Warm and Fuzzy'

2010

'Daddy Frank'
'First and Foremost'
'Magic Show'
'Spirit Dance'

ing them excellent for display and arrangements and sure winners for the rose exhibitor. Flowers are borne primarily singly but may send up sprays loaded with blooms, against a background of dark green, glossy foliage. The plant has been observed up to 30 inches tall and wide, covered with buds and flowers in all stages of development. Lower light conditions might make the flowers appear red with a lighter reverse, but still with superb exhibition form. Parentage is (red and white seedling x 'Timeless'). It will be introduced by Nor'East Miniature Roses/Rosemania.

'Daddy Frank'
(TUCKdaddy)

Robbie Tucker is the hybridizer of this deep red Mini-Flora with outstanding exhibition form and long stems for cutting. Blooms with 17-25 petals are borne singly on their stems, and the bushes grow to 3 feet in height. This AOE winner has good disease resistance and winter hardiness. Tucker named 'Daddy Frank' for his grandfather, and its parentage is (unnamed seedling x 'Memphis King'). It will be introduced by Rosemania.

'Spirit Dance'
(WEKsinratebe)

There's no rose around with this amazing color. It has very long pointed shapely yellow buds which swirl open to show off a warm butterscotch interior. But the show doesn't stop there — as the sun strikes the petals, they begin to blush to shades of brilliant orange followed with kisses of deep red. This orange red blend Mini-Flora has more than 30 petals and slight fragrance. It has deep glossy green foliage, a rounded growth habit and medium height. The long lived flowers are perfect for cutting and showing. Parentage is ('Singin' in the Rain' x 'Teddy Bear'). The hybridizer is Christian Bedard, and the introducer will be Nor'East Miniature Roses/Rosemania.

Robbie Tucker



Above, 'Daddy Frank'; below, 'Spirit Dance'.

courtesy Christian Bedard

