

## Master Gardener Search for Excellence Award - 2005

The rose team spearheaded a new project with far reaching effects. We as Master Gardeners coordinated the planting of roses in the cities of Champaign and Urbana, Illinois in conjunction with the Twin City Garden Club to celebrate the national Year of the Rose. Obtaining permission to plant roses on public property near Champaign City Hall, and the Urbana Courthouse was no small feat, because of the many municipal restrictions.

Because of our team's sustained rose outreach, the cities of Champaign and Urbana received national recognition. Each was named a "Rose City" by the American Rose Society, and both mayors received printed proclamations from Rose Society headquarters in Shreveport, Louisiana. Following our rose team's organized effort and direction, the Danville Garden Club, Roselawn Garden Club and Rantoul Garden Club also planted roses around their respective cities.

Our educational pursuit and outreach is extensive and on-going:

- Numerous rose presentations to several Central Illinois garden clubs, refuting the idea that roses are too difficult to grow (teaching and showing actual exhibition roses that have won awards, and how to grow them); since roses are one of the few flowers that are not strictly zone-specific they can be grown anywhere given proper winter protection.
- Two team members are certified by the State as pesticide applicators, which requires passing two exams.
- Offered hands-on pruning workshops with handouts and diagrams (to facilitate proper techniques); safe and proper use of tools, Integrated Pest Management and disease control..
- Explain how to select and purchase roses based on grades and classes of roses, (how many canes in each grade, size of cane etc.).
- Teach rose garden design utilizing variety, color, size, growth habit and personal choice.
- Team members have attended district, state and national rose conventions to continue to educate themselves on new rose care products, maintenance techniques, and new rose introductions.
- Team members have attended seminars on floral design incorporating both standard and miniature roses in arrangements, including Ikebana.
- Two team members serve as Co-Editors of a district rose newsletter covering Illinois and Indiana, which includes information on our Idea Rose Garden, and is shared with rosarians in both states.
- Conducting research in 2003, 2004 and 2005 on control of Japanese Beetles.
- Two members are nationally accredited rose show judges in both horticulture and rose arrangements. Two members are nationally accredited Consulting Rosarins.

In 2000 our team's goal was to create a different rose garden, removing the old garden varieties, and expand to include a broader spectrum of roses and grow new varieties each year. In addition, our focus would include **educating** the public at-large, and ourselves on rose culture. Now wherever we go we speak to novices, gardeners, and rosarians about the ease and reward of growing beautiful roses.

In these troubled times we need the "Rose" our national floral emblem, speaking an international language of love, peace, and beauty to bring us all in unity.

Name of MG Program and State: University of Illinois Extension, Champaign County, Illinois
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Category G. Educational Outreach; The Culture of the “ <b>Rose</b> ”, our National Flower
Name of Project: “ <b>The Idea Rose Garden</b> ”
Description of Project: Information included on next page.
Names of Master Gardeners involved in project: Gloria Levitt, Cheryl Pettus, Bill Sippel, James Hayes, Jr., Trudy Jewel, Gerri Kaha, JoAnn Broadbent.
Simplicity: May grow one or one hundred roses, because the same principles apply.
Practicality: Grows almost any place. Backyard, farm acreage, urban garden, condominium ledge, various containers.
Originality/creativity Extension and MG Mission/Goals: Focusing on IPM techniques, we took our “Rose Show,” i.e. educational presentations on rose growing and culture, to five cities in central Illinois.
Extension and MG Mission/Goals: Fulfilled educational, IPM goals and other criteria required in the Master Gardener program.
Significant learning and impacts: Major Rose growing projects in five cities because of our initiatives.
Number of people impacted: A five-city area in Central Illinois
Support from other community groups: Four (4) garden clubs, four (4) garden centers, elected officials in two (2) cities
Budget, \$700.00 annually
Other pertinent information: We grow new introductions and test new products each year, and incorporate our findings in our presentations.

Date: March 5, 2005

To: Leanne Moorman

On March 3, 2005 we received a e-mail from Christine Martinez, Master Gardener Coordinator that the previous mentioned Master Gardeners were in good standing.

Sincerely,

Gloria Levitt