

## **Richmond Rose Society Annual Horticulture Competition**

**Purpose:** The Richmond Rose Society (RRS) Horticulture Competition is an educational program designed to provide “practical experience” in selecting, preparing and displaying a rose (roses), and concurrently obtaining feedback from an American Rose Society Judge.

**General:** RRS monthly meetings include programs presented by experienced rosarians on the various facets of growing roses. Programs usually address current seasonal subjects designed to assist members in buying, planting, caring for, and growing beautiful roses of all types. The horticulture competition provides an opportunity for RRS members to obtain feedback on their efforts and to personally assess their progress in growing beautiful roses.

**Schedule:** The Horticulture Competition (HC) is an integral part of RRS meetings in May, June, September, and October each year. Each RRS member or RRS household may enter two named varieties in each of these four months. Thus, annually a total of **eight** exhibits can be entered. When tabulating final scores, only the **six** highest scores are counted. (To be competitive you should have exhibited in at least three of the four months).

**Procedures:** All roses entered must be correctly named and placed in a vase provided by the exhibitor. The entry may be a single bloom on a stem or a spray on a single stem.

**Preparation:** The exhibitor will complete an entry form (provided by RRS) giving the rose’s name and classification, circling the current month, and placing the exhibitor’s name on the back of the form. The rose entry is placed on the HC judging table with the form in front of the entry facing the edge of the table.

**Judging:** During the course of the meeting, an ARS judge will evaluate the entries and place a numerical score on the entry form for each exhibit. Using a scale of 1 to 10 the scores will normally be graduated in .5’s from 7.5, 8.0 ---to 10. At an appropriate time in the meeting the Judge will be asked to comment on the exhibits as a whole and note favorable attributes of the entries.

**End of Meeting:** At the end of the meeting the roses and graded forms should stay on the HC table for about 10 minutes so that everyone may examine the exhibits and see how they were graded. Exhibitors may then take their roses, but must **leave the forms** so that they may be collected and tabulated by the HC chairman.

**Annual Tabulation:** The HC Chairperson identifies the members that have entered exhibits in three of the four months when the HC was conducted. The best three monthly combined scores for each exhibitor are compiled. The exhibitor with the highest total score is the annual HC winner.

**Recognizing the Winner(s):** At the end of the year, the RRS President will have the large HC traveling plaque engraved with the winner's name. The HC plaque will be presented at the December brunch/awards ceremony. The following year, this recipient will be presented with a personal "keeper" plaque to recognize their past achievements.