



Denver Rose Society — 65 Years of Legacy 1947 – 2012

Summarized by Barbara Kemp

The Early History of the Denver Rose Society (DRS)

A man named Albert T. Green had a rose garden at his home on Dartmouth Avenue in Denver. It was his desire to share the beauty of his rose garden and love of roses with others that had similar feelings about roses so he decided to start a rose society. Others questioned why anyone would want to contemplate a rose society in a semiarid area, but he began contacting American Rose Society members listed in the Denver area to determine if they would be interested in organizing a rose society. The first meeting of the Denver Rose Society was on July 10, 1947, and Albert T. Green was elected as the first president. There were 12 members at the first meeting. It was not until the third meeting that the bylaws were adopted. Although current bylaws have been modified, there is still evidence of the first wording in them.

The enthusiastic group of charter members grew and their discussions centered on such subjects as rose shows, own root cuttings, and starting a municipal rose garden. Early meetings were held in homes and other locations until the society found a permanent meeting place at the old Horticulture House on Bannock Street. A record was found that a meeting was held at the Botanic Gardens House on June 14, 1962; not sure if this was the first meeting held at Denver Botanic Gardens (DBG). Currently, DBG is the home of DRS events and meetings.

Joan Franson summarized the first 50 years of the Denver Rose Society's legacy (1947–1997). Joan's first memory of Mr. Green was at an Arapahoe Rose Society rose show when he asked her to sit with him at the Classification table to learn how to identify and classify roses. "Learning and passing on what we have learned has been a basic part of the Denver Rose Society from its very beginning." *(Quote from Joan Franson)*

Motto and Object of the Denver Rose Society

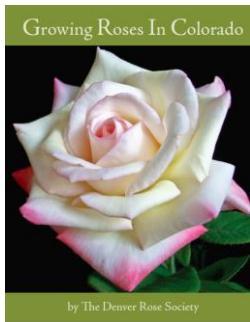
The motto, "Let's Grow Roses – For Fun," was adopted in 1953 and is still current today. The DRS objective, "To promote the growth of more and better roses," has been used for many years as well.

The Denver Rose Society Logo

The Denver Rose Society logo (above) was designed by a DRS member, Laurie Carpenter. It was designed for *The Rose Window*, but it has become the official DRS logo for many years, as viewed on the DRS web site; in *The Rose Window*, *Yearbook*, *Growing Roses in Colorado*; and on many other handouts and circulars.

Denver Rose Society Educational Guides

The first rose culture guide was published by A. E. Albera in 1960. It was of great interest to all gardeners in the Rocky Mountain area. Mr. Albera, one of the founders of the Denver Rose Society and a Consulting Rosarian, was recognized for his knowledge of roses. Herb Gundell commented that his guide "*Making Roses Behave*" was considered the best written book on rose care for the mile-high gardener. This book sold for \$2, and was published just months before Mr. Albera's passing.



The current DRS rose booklet, *Growing Roses in Colorado* (GRIC) is a very informative reference put together by DRS Consulting Rosarians and modified, as needed, by the DRS Education Committee. New members may purchase a GRIC for a special discounted price. It can be purchased for \$20.00, from area garden retailers and gift shops.

Book Layout and Design by D. Wilhelm; cover photograph by G. Holmes

DRS Programs

The primary goal of the Denver Rose Society is to promote rose culture on such topics as identification and classes of roses, soil preparation, insect and disease damage and control methods, growing bare root and own root roses, pruning, winter protection, and others. Seminars are presented by Consulting Rosarians (CRs) and DRS members annually at garden centers (Echter's, Tagawa, and Paulino's) to promote knowledge of roses and provide assistance to new rose growers. The development and excellence of the DRS web page www.denverrosesociety.org has increased the visibility of meetings, special events (Symposium, Old Garden Rose Display, Pruning Demonstration, and Annual Rose Show), other regional rose society shows and events, and District and National rose shows.

The DRS has sponsored several American Rose Society National Conventions, and the most recent in 2008 was the American Rose Society Spring National Convention and Rose Show, June 26-30, 2008, in Denver. Rosarians and visitors across the United States and from several international countries gathered to participate in the rose show competition, educational programs, and social activities. The theme of the convention, *Gems of the Rockies*, carried throughout convention activities, and attendees enjoyed tours, beautiful quilts, distinguished speakers, and, of course, the rose show. The DRS membership exhibited their talents and hard work in hosting an excellent convention.

Jefferson County Detention Center Rose Garden

In 1994, a "Rose Bowl" rose garden at the Jefferson County Detention Center, Golden, Colorado, was granted All-American Rose Selection Public Garden status. It has been a cooperative effort between the American Rose Society, DRS, and inmate workers. Early DRS organizers of the garden were Geraldine Boller, Carolyn Fyelling, and Joan Truby. Mary Kirby, current DRS coordinator, has assisted with the garden since 1997.

Membership

In 1947, the annual dues were one dollar per calendar year with approximately 12 members. The DRS current membership dues are \$20 (newsletter received electronically) or \$25 (newsletter mailed). For the past several years, total membership averages from 228 to 240, depending on the number of memberships gained at events during the year and through web contacts.

Newsletter and Yearbook

The history of our newsletter dates back to 1950 when the publication began and was called the *Rose News*. In 1955, the name was changed to *Rose Chatter*; and later in 1956 became the *The Rose Window*, Editor A. E. Albera.

The Rose Window Editors: Millie Turner; 1998; Millie Turner and Charmane Vargulich, 1999; Karri and Beverly Shackelford, 2000; Karri Shackelford, 2001; Unfilled, 2002; Marcie Emily, 2003; Barbara Kemp, 2004-09; Martha Tucker, 2010-12, Pat Colburn, 2012 to present

Yearbook Editors: Lyn Verretta, 1998-99; Stan Barrett and Peggy Williams, 2000; Millie Turner, 2001-05; Tim Tompkins, 2006-07; Scott Whitten, 2008, Martha Tucker, 2009-present.