

RECAP (or Debriefing)

At a meeting after the show, get all the members together who worked the show and compare notes. The treasurer should have the final costs, profits for each event, new members, etc. Find areas where you can improve next year, successful classes, ones to drop, etc. It is important to have a clear plan for the next year, especially if the show chair will be a different person.

After the show, be sure to publish all the winners in your society bulletin and thank all of the people who made your show a big success.

ROSE SHOW ALTERNATIVES

For societies who do not want to have a rose show there are other activities that can provide the same educational opportunities for the public as a rose show does. Rose exhibitions/displays and rose celebrations can promote rose growing as a hobby by showing a variety of roses that grow in the area. Other benefits include increasing the membership of the society and ARS and raising funds for the society by selling plants, rose related items and cut blooms.

Rose exhibitions/displays can be held anywhere a rose show would be held. Many of the same procedures would be done as if planning a rose show. A Chairperson will need to be selected, committees will need to be formed and a site selected.

A rose exhibition/display does not require all of the rose show supplies needed for a show. This can be a determining factor especially for a newer society that doesn't have a lot of funds in their treasury. Trophies, certificates, ribbons and awards are not needed. Because the show will not be judged the expenses for a judges breakfast/lunch and/or travel expenses would be eliminated. For small societies a rose exhibition is a great alternative because everyone doesn't have to be on every committee.

Different types and classes of roses can be displayed to show what rose varieties grow best in their particular growing conditions, especially garden varieties. The public may be more interested in joining a society that is promoting "garden roses" and not just the high maintenance "exhibition varieties." Instead of having roses classed by type, roses could be divided by their function in the landscape and their growth habit. Hybrid teas/grandifloras (average growth 5-6 feet) could be considered for the background of the landscape. Shrubs and floribundas (average growth 4-5 feet) could be used as mass plantings in the landscape. Miniatures, minifloras and groundcover roses (average growth 1-3 feet) could be used for borders in the landscape.

For societies who do not have many arrangers who make formal arrangements, informal rose arrangements can be displayed as informal bouquets so the public can see how roses can be used indoors as well as in the garden.

Rose exhibitions/displays can be more positive for a rose society - especially for newer members and novice members. Society members will be more inclined to enter a rose exhibition because they don't feel the pressure of the high competitiveness that a rose show brings. Novice classes, small garden classes (gardens with a small number of roses) and new member classes should be

included so all members of a society can feel confident about bringing their roses for the public to see. The public can participate by letting them vote for their favorite display in the show, best arrangement and most fragrant rose.

Societies who want to have a full day of events and activities could have a “Celebration of Roses” day. Two or three rose societies may want to join together and plan a rose celebration in a central location to encourage more public participation. A rose celebration may include a rose exhibition/display during the blooming season or it could be held during the pruning months for their area. Activities could include pruning demonstrations at a public rose garden, educational displays, various seminars on selection of roses for their area, rose care including IPM, insect and disease control using non-toxic sprays and fertilizing. Vendors could be available to sell rose related items. An information and membership booth should be located in a prominent area of the event. Tickets should be given out to participants at the various demonstrations and seminars for door prizes, rose plants and memberships for the rose society.

A key to a successful rose exhibition/display or a rose celebration is publicity. The information has to get out through all types of media available-radio, TV, newspapers, society newsletters and flyers at nurseries and garden centers. Let the public know WELL IN ADVANCE that a FREE fun day of rose activities is planned in their area.

A well planned rose exhibition/display or rose celebration can be a very positive alternative to a rose show. These alternatives will provide more educational opportunities for the public to learn about roses and give society members more opportunities to share their knowledge and passion for their hobby.