



NEWS RELEASE

American Rose Society

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 14, 2021

AN EVENING OF WINE & ROSES, Plus GARDEN TOUR, DEDICATIONS AND SPECIAL SPEAKERS

Shreveport, LA – The American Rose Society (ARS) and American Rose Center (ARC) announce dedications for new gardens within the ongoing Great Garden Restoration Project and special speaking engagements June 5, 2021.

Events will be as follows:

Thursday, June 3: *An Evening of Wine and Roses, 6 PM, \$75 per person. Public is invited. For information and tickets contact Kim at 318-938-5402.*

Since 1997, when Shreveport resident Mary Johnston was recognized for her significant role in the rose being named America's National Floral Emblem, the American Rose Center has honored others who have made important contributions to the Gardens with the Mary Johnston Award. The awards have been presented at gala Evening of Wine & Roses dinners.

We hope you will join us as we honor American Rose Society President Robert B. Martin Jr with the Mary Johnston Award. Bob will be the first non-Shreveport resident to receive the award. He is being recognized for an unprecedented commitment to America's Rose Garden as a vital society and community asset, which has seen considerable growth and success as he made America's Rose Garden and the American Rose Center a priority during his term as President.

Previous Mary Johnston Award Recipients include: Mary Johnston – 1997; W. C. Raspberry, Jr. – 1998; Dr. Charles T. Beard – 1999; Virginia Kilpatrick Shehee – 2000; Quintin T. Hardtner, III – 2001; O. Delton Harrison, Jr. – 2002; Dayna Sawyer – 2003; Dr. Harold & Mrs. Ida Hayden – 2004; John D. Caruthers, Jr. – 2005; Shreveport-Bossier Convention & Tourist Bureau – 2006; Margaret "Maggie" Martin – 2019.

Friday, June 4: The ARS Board of Directors will convene in Shreveport at their headquarters home.

Saturday, June 5: Garden Tour, Dedications and special speakers.

9:00 – Beard Hall and Shehee Hall, beautiful new design and elements for a more exciting reception and event center.

9:10 – Dedication of the Lion's Club Legacy Centennial Pavilion & Garden Gate. The sensory garden and ability ramp provide handicap access into the gardens from the Klima Building.

9:30 – Stop at Donna's Rose Garden at Hardtner Chapel

9:40 – Dedication of First Circle to the memory of Dr. Charles T. And Carolyn Beard – Garden of 21st Century top exhibition roses.

10:00 – Dedication of Second Circle to the memory of Virginia K. Shehee – Garden of 20th Century hybrid teas, floribundas and grandifloras.

10:30 – Dedication of Claude & Pamela Graves “Secret Garden”

11:00 – Rededication of Windsounds ARC International Trial Grounds. The ARS now boasts the ARC International Rose Trials, with the first winners being announced this Fall. Roses have been trialed for two years and evaluated quarterly for the duration.

11:20 – Dedication of David and Sandy Long “Never Forget” Garden. The ARS has partnered with the national Society of the Honor Guard, Tomb of the Unknown Soldier in planning for the Centennial of the Unknown Soldier, and as its expert resource for information on roses. White Roses are the official flower of the Centennial. Visit tombguard.org for more information.

12:00 – Lunch on the grounds. Available for purchase \$20, Music to Your Mouth food truck.

1:00 - Klima Lecture/Award Presentation. 2021 Recipient Claude Graves, Dallas, Texas will present: *Five Decades of Roses ... And Still Counting.*

Claude has been a long-time leader and is current Chair of the American Rose Center Committee and a generous supporter of the ARC Gardens. He is curator of the Rose Garden at the Chambersville Tree Farm and the Rose Garden at the Dallas Arboretum. A former President of the Dallas Rose Society, Claude is a recognized authority on Heritage roses, and serves on the Board of the Heritage Rose Foundation. He is a frequent speaker, garden writer and avid traveler to the great rose gardens of the world.

2:00 - Special Program: Bob Byers will present *How Your Garden Grows*

Bob holds a Master of Landscape Architecture from Louisiana State University. He worked professionally at Apostle Islands Nat. Lakeshore, Wisconsin, and for design firms in Jacksonville, Florida, Birmingham, Alabama, and Fayetteville, Arkansas. During his tenure at Garvan Woodland Gardens he worked with staff and volunteers to build plant collections of more than 3,500 different varieties.

Bob has published articles for *Arkansas Gardener*, *The Public Garden* and *American Nurseryman*. He has presented programs at state and international Master Gardener Conferences, the AHS Children’s Gardening Symposium, and the American Public Garden Association.

Since April 2015 he has served as the Director of the Fort Worth Botanic Garden, where he works with 60 dedicated employees, more than 1,000 volunteers, and several active support groups. He is enjoying learning the large and varied flora of Texas and speaking on gardening and conservation topics.

3:00 – Special Program: Mike Shoup will present *Schooled by an Old Rose, A Gardener’s Rosy Outlook*

Mike owns The Antique Rose Emporium located near Brenham, Texas, specializing in heirloom roses since the 1980s. Mike is also a rose hybridizer, crossing antique and modern rose varieties to create large-flowered, repeat-blooming roses that still have the tough traits of antique roses. He calls this collection the “Pioneer Series”, named after early Texas plant pioneers.

Mike is also a noted author and his most recent book, *Empress in the Garden*, is an excellent read. Mike’s mission is finding and rescuing old forgotten roses, and creating new roses from old rose genes.

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About the American Rose Society: The American Rose Society is a non-profit, educational organization founded in 1892 to promote the culture, preservation and appreciation of the rose and to improve its standard of excellence for all people through education and research. Its headquarters is located in Shreveport, Louisiana, at the American Rose Center, home of “America’s Rose Garden.”

About the American Rose Center: The American Rose Center was established in 1974 and serves as the national headquarters site for the American Rose Society. The Center is the largest public garden in the United States dedicated to roses.