



## INDIAN ROSE FEDERATION

### MONTHLY ELECTRONIC - NEWSLETTER – VOLUME – 7.



#### Presidents Page

Dear Members,

Wishing all of you the festival of colors, Happy Holi, may your lives be colorful with myriad colors which nature has provided us through flowers, very soon summer will set in bringing an end to the season of roses in our parts, but it will be the season of flowers in hilly areas and mountainous regions, as the snow melts, the pruners will be out and feeding schedules being prepared for the blooming season, Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh and parts of Uttarkhand, will be the places one can get to enjoy nature.

Srinagar will be having their Annual tulips festival from 12<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup> of April - 2015, followed by their regular flower show in May, followed by the World Convention of WFRS in Lyons, France, I hope that members from our country participate, this will enable us to mark our presence there, which I feel is very much required, at Nagpur a very strong feedback I got was the keen interest in Indian bred varieties from the Western World, during a presentation at an ARS function, members present were amazed to see so many beautiful varieties growing in our Country and bred by our Indian breeders.

I have one offer to make to the rose breeders of our country, whatever amount of seedlings they have and would want a trial to be made at my farm, they are most welcome to do that by sending their seedlings along with their codes, from my side I assure you that proper care is taken and the trial reports will be sent to the breeder on a quarterly basis.

Till then, Good Bye.

Ahmed Alam Khan

## EDITORIAL.



Belated greetings for Holi to all of you, hope all of you had a colorful day, the season ends with shows too coming to closing stages, it was a hectic season, with so many shows taking place in the metropolis and around, one always gets to see some new variety on the benches and with so many queries coming in and sometimes putting the judges in a quandary. At our show in Mumbai there was an elegant bloom coming in from the Garden of Ashish More, long pointed bi - color, of light cerise pink with sharp broad edges of deep pink, a perfect opener with a high centre, quite resembling Gemini and Anticipation but the light pink color put everyone into difficulty, none of us could identify the variety, when asked Ashish he himself, truthfully informed us that he has no idea about the variety and that he had received bud eyes from Mr. Mahajan the care taker of the rose garden, Raj Bhavan at Nagpur. During my visit to Nagpur, we were taken to the rose garden of Raj Bhavan, Nagpur, there I saw in the garden the same variety with five plants in a row, throwing out large shoots with those elegant blooms standing erect, I inquired from Mr. Mahajan, unfortunately he also could not provide me the information required, however he told me all the plants have been supplied from M/s KSG Sons, Bangalore and errors in labeling had left the variety as nameless, A request to Mr. Kasturi Rangan to identify the same, I will be putting up a photo of the variety, with hopes that some of you may be able to identify it.

Once again the same issue came up at another garden, a visit to Mr, Chichmalatpure's garden, no labeling, not much information could be provided as the list has been misplaced, he requested us to do so, but due to time constraints we could not help him out, as we were too eager to go to Mr. Mukund Tijare's farm, which is some 22 kms from the city, Mr. Chichmalatpure has a collection of some 500 varieties, I hope that Mr. Tijare helps him out with the identification process.

Regards,

Arshad Bhiwandiwalla.



Given above is the variety I was referring to  
Can anyone please help to identify this Variety

## Stranger in Paradise

A personal account of the 2014 Indian Rose Federation Conference,  
November 29 to December 3, 2014.

Tuan Ching from USA in the Heritage Rose Foundation, issue of Feb, 2015

When Girija Viraraghavan asked me to speak at the Indian Rose Federation and World Federation of Rose Societies 2014, Regional Conference in Hyderabad, I had no idea what I was in for, but after the first day, I couldn't agree more with those who had described it as an amazing, once in a life time event.

Hyderabad is a historical city in the middle of the Indian subcontinent, and the 4 day Conference was held at the Novotel Convention Centre. Spanking new and modern, it could have been a setting in Los Angeles or Vancouver, In the Indian subcontinent roses are at their peak from December till February, the cool dry season that follows the searing heat of summer.

The Indian Rose Federation is comprised of 19 regional and city rose societies, each with its own major rose shows and events. The conference was jointly organized by the Hyderabad Rose Society and was very special, for on top of the main rose show, there were conference speakers and delegates from the world over. This year's theme "The Rose Eternal : New Light on the World of Roses" focused on the history, exploration, research and hybridization of old and species roses.

Ironically the only actual old garden rose I came across were a single bloom of Paul Neyron that was on a rose show table and a bed of Gruss un Tepliz in one of the large private gardens we visited. It is interesting to note that while a few types of fragrant old roses are grown commercially in India by the acre, they are valued not as cut flowers, but for temple offerings and garlands and the extraction and manufacture of rose oil and rose water.

The first day was taken up by a grand opening ceremony graced by luminaries of nobility and politics followed by a massive rose show. Entrants had travelled from far as 800 kilometers ( 497 miles ) away, arriving in the morning with large coolers and boxes filled with hundreds of cut roses, the best of which made it to the rose show tables. The number of entries came to 3,083 ( each division had from 4 to 26 sections and 64 winners in 14 divisions ), and the many tables were tightly packed with the most beautiful

blooms and arrangements. What interested me most were the categories of Indian bred varieties and novelty miniatures, the likes of which I hadn't seen before. It was frustrating the several spectacular specimens had no variety name written on their tags, and I was later told that it was not due to carelessness, but simply because they were new unnamed hybrids.

One of the highlights of the rose show was the display of potted roses that were smothered in full bloom, a growing technique perfected by Sanjoy Mukherjee, a native of Kolkatta and one of the rising stars in the Indian rose show circuit. Fourteen inch clay pots, holding five foot tall rose bushes covered in 40 to 50 large blooms, were a sight to behold. Careful feeding and watering, a soil less medium comprised of cinders ( a bi-product of steels mills, similar looking to perlite ) and timed pruning ( count 40 days from pruning to bloom ) make this spectacular display. In large Indian cities like Kolkatta and Mumbai, roses are usually container grown on apartment roof tops.

Among the many rosarians who spoke during the morning lecture sessions were Yuki Mikanagi of Japan ( on natural habitats of wild roses in Japan), Helga Bricchet from Italy ( on Italian rose hunters ), Dr. Guoliang Wong from China ( on the Chinese rose "Baoliang" equivalent to "Maggie" in the West ) and of course Viru and Girija Viraraghavan ( on the search for and hybridization of native Asian species ). Between sessions, I had a most interesting exchange with Viru on his experience and discoveries in hybridizing with old Bourbons, a wealth of information such as I'd not come across since the day I had a long memorable phone conversation with Ralph Moore, about his breeding old moss roses with modern varieties. I had many chats with other delegates, who were equally eager to share ideas and information, the shackles of trade secret and politics having been left at the door. The Conference journal, a beautiful hardbound book, is filled with such richness ( A copy of the Annual will be put up at the IRF website in PDF format, where people can download them free of charge ).

After the morning lectures we visited some very impressive rose gardens. The public one's were beautifully formal and manicured. But, two private gardens, owned by Ahmed Alam Khan ( President of the Rose Federation ) and his family stood out. The roses had been pruned at an earlier, calculated time to be at peak bloom during the Conference. One had many beds dedicated specifically to Indian Hybrid Teas. I, was never really a fan of modern hybrid teas till the moment when I came across those bed of magnificent Indian hybrids. Many of them were high centered form with rolled back petals, an elegant look

typical of mid Twentieth Century Hybrid Teas such as 'Mirandy', 'Christian Dior' and 'Kordes Perfecta'. Quite a few were highly perfumed and retained their scent ( despite having been in the Sun all day by the time we arrived at the garden ). Most of them were hybridized by amateur Indian rose growers, and the trend there seemed to be Hybrid Teas, with petals that are striped or picoteed, or glowing in contrasting colors. The other, larger garden ( of four acres ) was bare farmland a mere five months ago, but now, with its massive ringed beds of blooming Hybrid Teas, strikingly resembles the Queen Mary Rose Garden in London's regent Park, it was an astounding showcase of what can be done when passion, wisdom and wealth come together.

For rose lovers and rose growers around the World, India is not a place to be missed. But for the lack of hype and self promotion. Indian rosarians with their specialized knowledge and their outstanding creations will pave the way for rose cultivation, especially in the warmer regions of the World.



Grooming the blooms



Tuan Ching with Girija and Viru



Tuan Ching with Ahmed Alam Khan IRF, President and at the Indra Park Garden With Sanjoy and Yuki



Professor Arun Waranashiwar was honored by the Pune Rose Society with a Silver Medal at their Winter Show held on 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> of January – 2015, by President, Mr. Dipak Tilak.

Dr. Narayan V. Shastri, Breeder of India



Born :- 30<sup>th</sup> September, 1941, at Malkapur, Dist : Buldhana, Maharashtra

Dr. Shastri as we all call him, started growing roses in 1976 (inspired by Prof. P. H. Kulkarni of Nagpur). He started exhibiting them in 1977, Having won all types of prizes in different categories and sections, several times in shows held in Nagpur and all over India in Convention shows, when not participating, he is always there as a Judge.

Dr. Shastri is a member of the Nagpur garden Club, where he has served as Secretary for 2 years and as President for 4 years, at present member of the Executive Committee, life member of the Indian Rose Federation and also a member of the Governing Council, he also holds membership of Vidarbha Rose Society, Pune Rose Society and Rose Hybridizers Association, U. S. A.

Dr. Shastri has been writing and speaking on roses for the last several years at various rose societies and IRF Conventions, he has published many papers in the Indian Rose Annual and annual of other societies including Rose Society of India (New Delhi), Pune, Bhopal, Jabalpur etc.

Rose Breeding Activities started in late nineteen eighties and so far, he has released more than 35 cultivars. Many of them have been winning prizes in rose shows in India. A few of them are fragrant. Some prominent varieties include : Braham Dutt, Shankar Jaikishan, Double Helix, P. H. Kulkarni, Ragotsav, Thunderbolt, Golden Touch, The B. R. Rose, Gavilgarh etc. His breeding work was purely as a fun activity (inspired by Mr. Braham Datt, a well know rose breeder from Nagpur ), with not much thought to the usually important breeding parameters. Anyway, as an amateur breeder with a small place, systematic scientific breeding is not possible. The parameters he has been giving some thoughts include fragrance, shape and floriferousness, for the last few years he has been making efforts to come out with a cultivar of a particular color (this year yellow, next year white etc ). Now he



is thinking of continuing the activity on the following lines (without losing sight of the fun aspect of breeding).

Use varieties which have genes of Indian species roses e.g. those created by Viraraghavan to create new roses. Gavilgarh is such a rose, Try to breed for cultivars that would do reasonably well in partial shade. Pay some attention to floribundas and miniatures.

He has been awarded Vijay Pokarna Gold Medal for his work by Indian Rose Federation in 2006.



Brahma Datt - below P. H. Kulkarni



Double Helix - below Dr. Kane



Meet The Rose Grower.



Hitesh Shah resident of Jabalpur (Madhya Pradesh). Managing Director of the Reliable Dairy and Dairy products biotech Limited.

Anthony . J. D'Angelo quoted "Develop a passion for learning. If you do you will never cease to grow".

It's the same with me, my passion for roses started at an early age when my grandmother planted a rose named Alex Red, my interest in gardening grew bigger and bigger and after that I never looked back. Passion had been induced in me after looking and smelling its fragrance of that rose. Seeing these roses flourish is one of the biggest delights, I have ever experienced, even you may have cherished. At the age of 15 I, joined The Jabalpur Rose Society and also became a member of the Indian Rose Federation. I became an active member of the rose society, as it gave me the best platform to be in touch with the latest varieties and all the new technologies related to roses.

I started growing exhibition quality roses and competed with high spirits and won several prizes.

In 1996, my rose "Headliner" won the award of king in the Jabalpur rose show, 2014 my rose "Bahurupi" was crowned the king, Veteran Honor" won the best red in the All India rose show held at Bhopal.

In 2015 my rose "St. Patrick" won the award for king in the Jabalpur rose show and the same rose helped me win the best yellow trophy in the WRF Convention held at Hyderabad. WRF Convention was one of the most grandeur and unforgettable event, I had ever witnessed on Indian soil and this convention definitely added to our country's pride. For that I would like to give my gratitude to our President of IRF, Mr. Ahmed Alam Khan and IRF Governing Body for standing behind, such a remarkable event.

I have won overall championships. Apart from gardening my other hobby is to do the photography of my jewels (my roses).

Presently, I have more than 1,000 varieties of roses. My collection, is a prized possession. I also give lectures in the camps held by the Rose Society of Jabalpur for new gardeners providing them technical advice to grow good quality roses. Joining Indian Rose Federation has helped me form an avenue. It has given me new experience and knowledge to which I look up to.

My next new project is to breed impressive and attractive variety of roses so that I can contribute to my Nation, part of my effort to contribute something which the gardener will cherish for years ahead.



Views of Hitesh Shah Garden at Jabalpur.





### Tips from the experts

Dr. N. V. Shastri from Nagpur.

In this part of the nation, the month of March heralds the end of the rose season. Mercury starts rising quickly and by the third week it may be nearing 40 deg. centigrade. The average hovers around 35 deg. But you may continue to get flowers till the end of the month, although the quality is not there. The concept of mulching has now been generally accepted and it should be finished by the end of the month. Virtually no roses from April till the onset of monsoon. No chemical fertilizers during the summer months. Thrips, mites and scales continue to trouble so that spraying cannot be totally done away with. Fortnightly sprays are recommended unless temps are around 45 deg ! Those who do budding continue to do it till Holi. Nursery men may do it till the end of March. Watering is the most important chore now till Monsoon. Do it diligently. Frequent water sprays are highly recommended.

Rahul Kumar from New Delhi.

It's time for proper utilization of this month. Rose plants love to take good growth. So feed them properly with NPK, micro nutrients, mgso4 and DAP. At the same time don't forget to spray them with fungicide and insecticide on regular basis. One can opt to add new rose plants in his garden. So we can say this month is rocking month for roses.

Ashish More from Mumbai

In our Mumbai region March is very hot day temp rises to 30 - 35 degree centigrade. Roses are fully grown at stages with maximum basal shoots with dense foliage, climatic conditions are favorable for mites and thrips they easily multiply and survive in thick dense foliage of healthy roses even spraying of miticide's don't give desired results hence to control mites prune overlapping branches and mainly centre zig - zag overlapping branches remove excess leaves in lower parts of plant i.e. open the plants so that spraying is properly done to every lower sides of leaves. Instead of chemical fertilizers use organic fertilizer they are, effective, blooms get scorched due to sunlight, alternate day spray wash of water to whole plant and also water requirement of plants increases. Start sprays to control thrips. Happy rose growing.

Sanjoy Mukherjee from Kolkatta.

Take care of your plants in summer, after a grand success of Hyderabad Conference, a season that ended with a sweet note and some unforgettable memories, it gives me a lot of confidence towards my passion. Lots of mail from abroad also proved that the Pot Culture of our Country is highly appreciated and has flourished rapidly. I hope one day all the rosarians will be attracted towards the pot culture. I am also eager to add my contribution behind this. I think the rose season is almost over now in maximum parts of our country, it is also the end of second flush too, as such we should not take flowers now as we all know that summer is knocking, so let's start with the precautions to be taken. 1. Daily water spray, if possible then spray chilled water after sun set, 2. Spray Interped 3ml per lit, for Spider Mites, water the plants after sunset once a week. 3. For thrips use Confidor, Tata Milda or Exodus regularly. 4. Organic and Inorganic can be started but in low quantities. 5. Liquid fertilizer can play a vital role for this period. 6. Regular check of ph level of soil. 7. Use calcium Nitrate (10 gm / 10 lit) it helps maintain the body temperature of the plant. 8. Magnesium Nitrate for growth of basal shoots. 9. Remove the yellow leaves from the plant regularly. 10. Try to maintain the moisture level of soil, your soil bed must be wet in summer.

Khadar Alam Khan from Hyderabad.

The crucial period of rose care starts with the advent of summers, variation in night and day temperatures, with day rising to 35<sup>o</sup> or more inviting attacks from thrips, mites and night dipping to 20<sup>o</sup> or less, inviting mildew, regular spraying of pesticides and fungicides is

recommended, mulching is the most important part, a good layer of well rotted organic compost, at least 3" away from the stem of the plant, the mulch will also provide food required for the plant, avoid inorganic fertilizers during this period unless it is a must, but after watering and during the evenings when the heat of the sun is at it's lowest ebb, regular watering to keep the soil moist and giving a daily bath to the plant, this will also help in eradicating thrips and mites, Take care Summer is here.

Ganesh Shirke from Pune.

Intense heat of summer and the temperature is rising, water your pots twice a day along with a good shower to the plants, add mulch and ensure that the soil is always moist, you can either keep a mulch of rice husk, coco peat or leaf mould. Attack from mites is imminent along with scales, as a precaution spray Malathion 2ml plus Karanj oil per litre of water and Exodus every alternate week, I repeat wash your plants daily and maintain moisture in soil.

I want to share my experience of visiting and judging a flower show at NOIDA on 28<sup>th</sup> February, 2015. The Show was organized by "THE FLORICULTURE SOCIETY, NOIDA". This society came in existence in 1993 and this was their 29<sup>th</sup> successful show. The President, General Secretary and Joint Secretary were Mr. Satish Kumar Mathur, Ms. Manju Grover and Ms. Deepa Pasricha respectively. I was amazed to see the beautiful rose varieties there. Carry Grant, Pusa Ajay, Sahashradhara and Double Delight were outstanding. Love to share some photographs.







Vidarbha Rose Society felicitated the Indian Rose Federation President,  
Mr. Ahmed Alam Khan and his team at Nagpur,  
for the successful hosting of the World Regional Conference at Hyderabad. .



Ahmed Alam Khan was presented with a bouquet and Citation by Mrs. Sanyogita Dhanwate, President Vidarbha Rose Society



Mr. Sanjay Dahiwade, presenting a shawl to the President and a bouquet to Mr. Khadar Alam Khan.



Dr. Arvind Sable, former President of IRF, presenting a bouquet to Mr. Vijay Kant, Hon. Secretary IRF and Mr. Veerbhadra Rao, Hon. Treasurer of IRF.



Dr. Arvind Sable speaking at the function and Mrs. Sanyogita Dhanwatey, reading the Citation



Mrs. Sanyogita Dhanwatey felicitating Mrs. Uzma Ahmed Alam Khan, The President thanking the Executive Committee and members of Vidarbha Rose Society