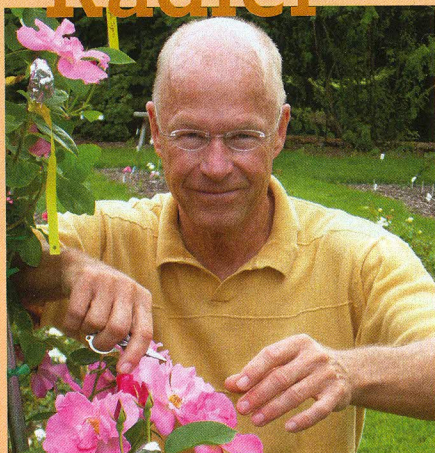
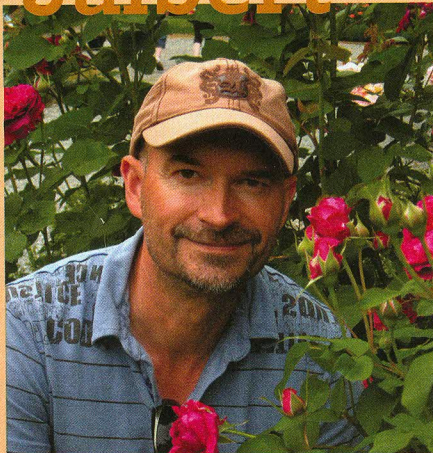


Meet the Hybridizers

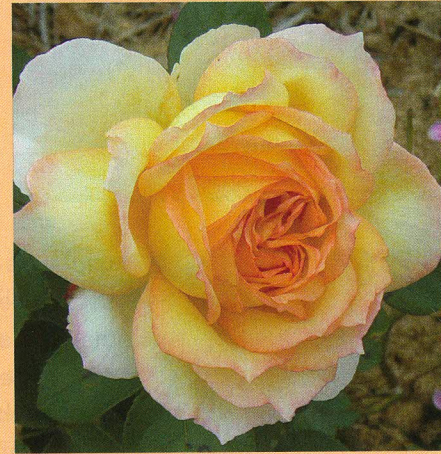
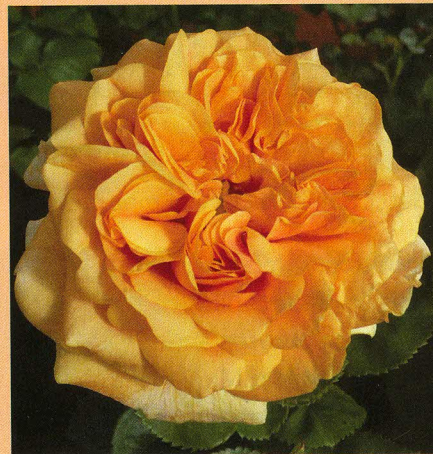
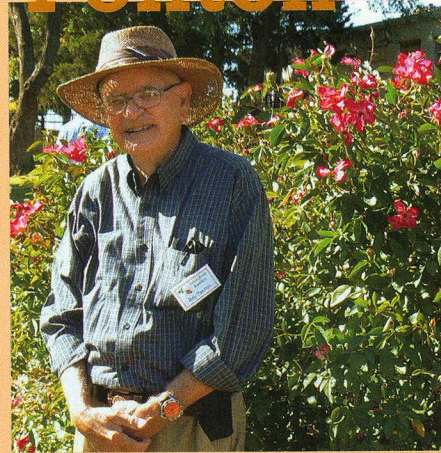
Bill Radler



Brad Jalbert



Ray Ponton



Known as the Father of Knock Out®, **Bill Radler** turned the rose world upside-down by creating what is known as the most disease resistant rose on the market today. The popularity of the initial Knock Out® rose (AARS 2000) spawned the whole Knock Out® family of roses.

Although Bill bred the maintenance out of roses so that he theoretically could have more spare time for other pursuits, fortunate for us he is fervently working to expand the color range, flower form and fragrances in his easy care roses.

Above: 'Knock Out'

Hybridizing roses is one of **Brad Jalbert's** great pleasures. At the forefront of sustainable roses in Canada, he has established a very tough, no spray test field of his own in an area that gets severe powdery mildew, downy mildew and blackspot.

His company, Select Roses, is a farm-style nursery that specializes in hybridizing and growing garden roses. From his hundreds of crosses resulting in 3,000 seedlings each year, perhaps three will have what it takes to be introduced.

Above: A new seedling that is in year two of its no spray testing and is so far disease free.

Ray Ponton's hobby and passion is rose hybridization. With two dozen roses registered so far, Ray plants his roses in what once was a pasture that he operates similar to an Earth-Kind® trial.

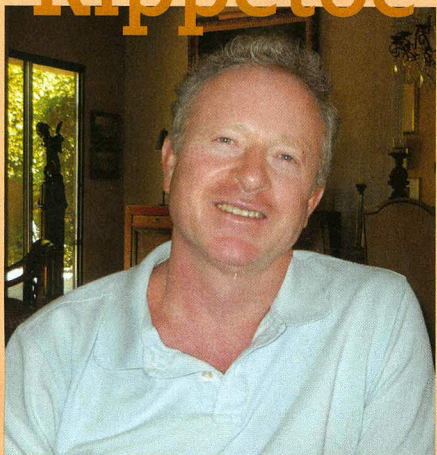
Working out of Taylor, Texas, northeast of Austin, Ray does not patent his roses so the cuttings can be shared.

His roses are thriving well and some are in trials at the Earth-Kind® fields in Farmers Branch, Texas.

Above: 'Delightful Phyllis'

There's nothing like the fun of new roses and choosing which ones you will plant in your rose garden. It takes these grassroots breeders years before they can deem a rose fit for you to plant, and they often do their work as a hobby or without a ready outlet for their work through a nursery. We salute those that spend years crossing and testing so that we can have low maintenance, beautiful roses!

Robert Rippetoe

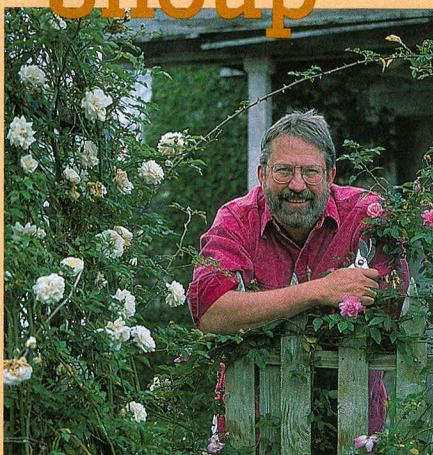


Robert Rippetoe specializes in species crosses, using *Hulthemia persica* and *Rosa banksiae*, *bracteata*, *gigantea*, and *filipes*, species that are evergreen in temperate climates.

Robert's goal is "to breed roses for the following qualities: an evergreen nature, winter bloom, without prickles, ease of rooting, disease resistance, fragrance and a naturally elegant and beautiful habit which does not require pruning other than to shape the plant ...carefree low maintenance landscape shrubs."

Above: A new rose showing promise that is now in testing.

Mike Shoup



Mike Shoup stresses that a rose should be easy to care for. With that idea in mind, Shoup has crossed old garden roses with species roses with the goal of the hybrids being nearly thornless, repeat-blooming and having the original wild rose makeup to give it increased disease-resistance capabilities. The results of his efforts are the Pioneer Roses, which were bred and chosen for their beauty and ease of care. Mike's Antique Rose Emporium, with several locations in Texas, specializes in old roses, Earth-Kind® and Pioneer roses.

Above: 'Pioneer Spirit'

Jim Sproul



Jim Sproul has been successfully hybridizing as a hobby for over twenty years. He pioneered using Ralph Moore's germplasm for the *Hulthemia* hybrids to come up with the Eyeconic series of roses. Through his rose blog, sproulroses.blogspot.com, you can follow his seedlings and gain insight into the world of hybridization. His latest introduction 'Thrive!' came to market this year. Jim also serves as the General Director of the Rose Hybridizers Association.

Above: New unnamed *Hulthemia* seedlings.

The Rose Hybridizers Association

rosebreeders.org

Want to try your hand at rose hybridizing? Get started now!

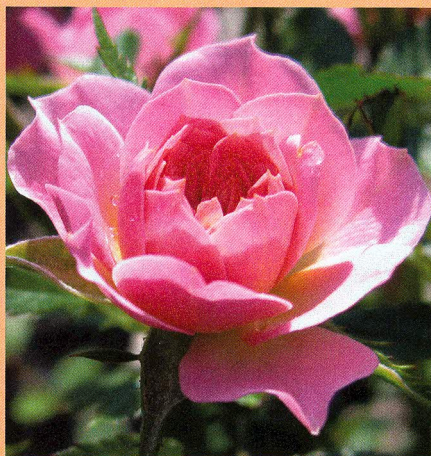
Organized in 1969 by 13 members, the Rose Hybridizers Association has grown to an organization of about 200 members in over 20 countries. RHA members have introduced more than 500 new roses to the commercial market and in 1996, one of our members was awarded the coveted All-America Rose Selections for his rose, St. Patrick.

Some rose hybridizers may dream of significant financial gain from their rose creations. A few have found it, but most will not. The real satisfaction experienced by rose hybridizers is the indescribable feeling of creative accomplishment, of seeing one's own seedling unfurl the petals of its first little bud, unique in all the world and possessing boundless hope and promise for its future.

The Rose Hybridizers Association thus attempts to emphasize the "fun" aspect of rose hybridizing and to encourage in rosarians the adoption of this exciting new dimension in their rose-growing activities. The primary purpose of RHA is to make hybridizing information available to members and to provide materials and services which will aid them in their work.

With member forums, a photo gallery and an active engaged membership that is generous in sharing their expertise and insights, the RHA is a vibrant organization with load of resources! ■

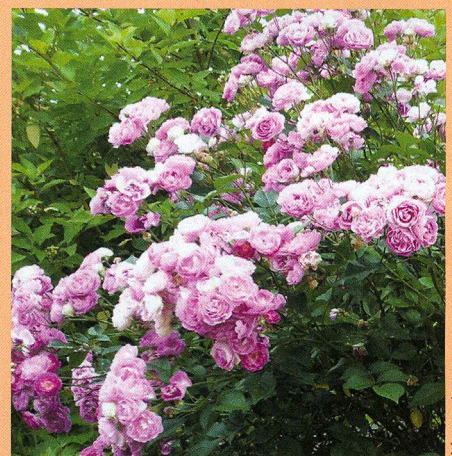
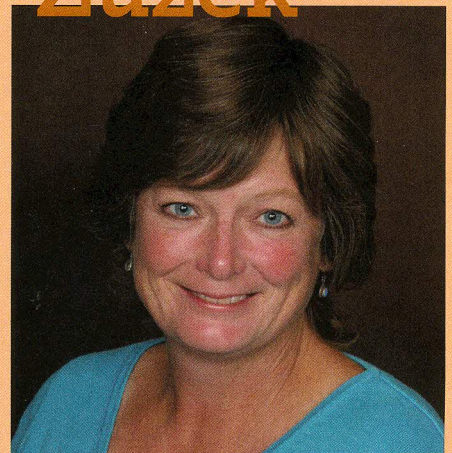
Dr. David Zlesak



Dr. David Zlesak is using hardy species roses with modern shrub and miniature roses to try to generate roses with greater disease resistance, winter hardiness and diversity of flower color. Focusing on roses that are adapted to the Northern climate, David finds it rewarding and exciting to see new seedlings develop and work towards his breeding goals. He bred the Oso Happy Series of roses released by Spring Meadow Nursery.

Above: Oso Happy™ 'Petit Pink', a hardy and healthy miniature (bred from minis and northern hardy landscape shrubs) that won the 2012 Award of Excellence.

Kathy Zuzek



Marcus Larson

Kathy Zuzek selects for cold hardy, healthy roses for the Northern climate. Her series of polyanthas, 'Sven', 'Lena', 'Ole', and 'Sigrid', have been introduced by Bailey Nurseries as the Northern Accents™ series.

She recently introduced a hardy pink rose at the Minnesota Landscape Arboretum plant sale called 'Summer Waltz'. They had a rose naming contest to select the name. Kathy's work is part of the University of Minnesota's rose breeding program.

Above: Northern Accents™ 'Sven'