

Now You Expect Me To Be Creative?!

By Bobbie Reed, *Master Rosarian* and *Rose Show Junkie*

Some people (named Cindy) run screaming from the room when arrangements are mentioned. I know there was a time when I couldn't put two roses in a vase and have them look good together. But really, it's much the same process as when we put together a bouquet of flowers to take to a friend. We want the roses to look good!

The biggest difference between horticulture display and arrangements at a rose show is that the arrangements can include non-rose plant material to fill out the display. The roses must still dominate, however. And they, and other plant material, should look just as good as those in the horticulture section – groom those roses!

Arrangements come in three main flavors – traditional, in the Oriental style, and modern. Classes may be for “**standard**” arrangements, using any class of rose, or “**miniature**”, using only mini or miniflora roses. Size limits for the various arrangements are stated in the schedule.

Traditional is just exactly that – what you expect a floral display to look like. They may be a mass (rounded or oval) [left], a line (long and skinny), or a line-mass (a line that's fat in the middle) [right]. Roses should be smaller and lighter towards the top and ends, darker and larger toward the bottom and center. There should be a well-developed focal area.



Oriental style arrangements follow strict rules based on naturalistic plant materials in an asymmetrical triangle. They may be low, with water showing (moribana) [left]; in a tall container (nageire) [right]; free style (rule breaking), or more traditional (Shoka). Because there are many different schools of Oriental arranging, designs may vary widely.



Underwater

Modern breaks all the rules. And there are dozens of different styles, any of which may be called for in a given class. Look for open forms (empty space inside the outline of the arrangement), plant material displayed in a manner in which it wouldn't normally grow, multiple points of emergence, etc. Let your imagination run wild!



Free Form

There are **special classes** with special requirements. The **Princess** class requires only roses and foliage and other parts of the rose bush. The **Duke** class is for arrangements that are larger than mini, but smaller than standard, with any type of rose – they must be larger than 10”x10”, but no larger than 20”x20”. And of course there's a **Novice** class. Entries in these classes may use any type of design, but the style must be named on the tag. We also have a **table class** – a tray, with dishes, napkin, and a rose arrangement – that's always popular.

Each class has a title; some attention should be paid to it, but the emphasis should still be on the roses and the design, not on the title. This year's novice class is, for instance, is “PBJ Sandwich” – think of something very simple, maybe layers, maybe something reminiscent of childhood.

We also have two classes for **dried exhibits**. For these, you must use roses that *you* dried, but how you put them together with other dried material is up to you.

The arrangements classes allow you to use your own roses, or to borrow roses from another gardener – just don't buy florist roses. Other material in your arrangement may be from your garden, from another garden, or purchased. Wow, that makes it easier! Because some awards are available only to those who grew their own roses, always mark “**AG**” on the tag if the roses are from your own garden.

Get the show schedule on-line at www.atlantarose.org, or from Chris Woods at 770-309-6302 or cwoods@us.ibm.com. Read all the fine print, and let that creative streak start percolating. **PLEASE remember to make reservations** if you intend to enter an arrangement – that ensures that we will have space available for you. Contact Linda Schuppener at 678-895-3945, or linda2742@comcast.net. **before 10am on Friday, May 7.**