



'Morning Magic' - Photo by Diego Celis

Singularly Beautiful Roses

A Publication Dedicated to Single, Nearly Single, and Semi-Double Flowered Roses

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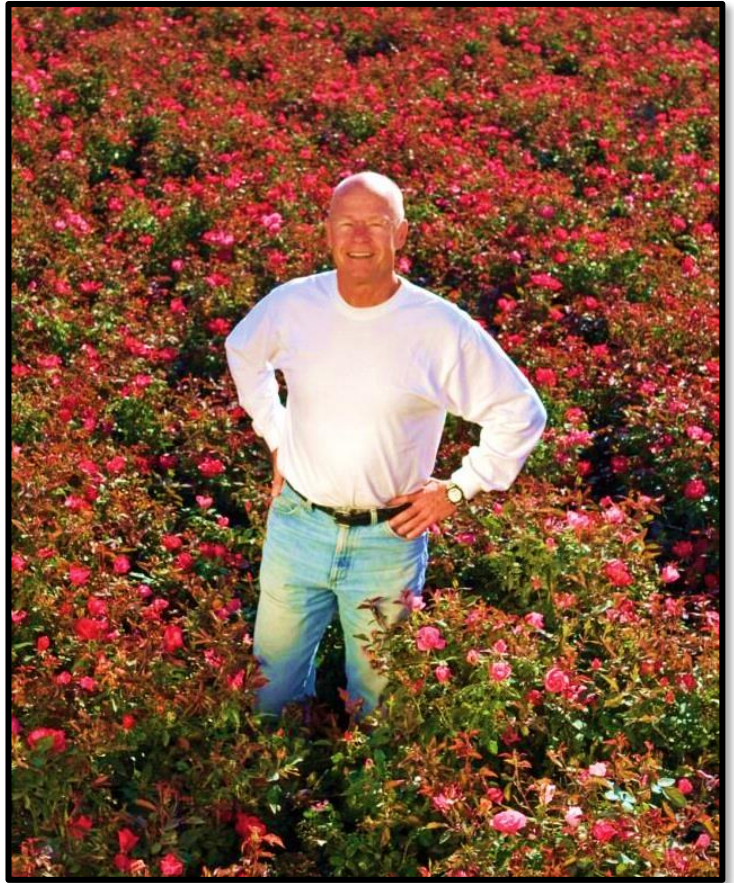
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Like, Totally Rad!

The name William Radler is internationally recognizable in the world of roses and rose growing. Beginning with the introduction of 'Knock Out' in 2000, his hybridizing efforts have resulted in the creation of a broad spectrum of varieties that set a high standard for flower power, hardiness, and low maintenance. He currently holds 50 plant patents, was awarded Great Rosarian of the Year in 2008, and is the founder of Rose Innovations, LLC, a company committed to the ongoing creation of exceptional roses.

The following is a brief glimpse into a number of newer or less well-known lightly petaled varieties that I have had the pleasure of growing (not including the more familiar 'Knock Out' series).

'Carefree Sunshine' is, in my opinion, the best of Mr. Radler's yellow introductions. The flowers generally have ten to twelve petals and in our heat seem to fade somewhat less than 'Sunny Knock Out' or the Meiland yellow Shrub 'Limoncello.' Here in central Georgia it is extremely resistant to black spot and very floriferous. The foliage is a distinct apple green color. It was bred in the 90's and released by Star Roses one year after 'Knock Out.' The record of its breeding includes the well-known roses 'Rise 'n Shine,' 'Gold Badge,' 'Applejack,' 'Playboy,' and 'Carefree Beauty' to name just a few.



Will Radler in the Star Rose fields



*'Carefree
Sunshine'*

*Photo
Courtesy
of*

*To Go
Garden.com*



I wrote about this next variety after finding it at a Home Depot years ago. ‘All A-Flutter’ is a single-flowered, fuchsia-pink variety with striking maroon filaments. Like all his roses it has a very complicated heritage. One important name in its lineage is ‘Rainbow Knock Out,’ a rose that was not popular in the retail trade but has breeding potential relative to black spot resistance. For whatever reason, ‘All A-Flutter,’ bred in 2002, did not seem to find a retail marketer – a shame!

‘All-A-Flutter’

Photo by Stephen Hoy

I’ve also written about ‘Lemon Meringue’ in the not too distant past. It is a sport of ‘Autumn Sunset’ discovered by Mr. Radler in 1998. Even though Weeks Roses released it in 2005, it has not gained the retail traction of its sport parent or its grandparent, ‘Westerland.’ It is healthy, fragrant, and repeats throughout the growing , season. Find it!

‘Lemon Meringue’
Photo by Stephen Hoy



‘Brite Eyes,’ released in 2006, is classed as a Large-Flowered Climber, but grows more like a large shrub in my garden. Its informal, lightly double blooms are pink with yellow highlights at the base of the petals and nicely fragrant. ‘Knock Out’ and ‘Abraham Darby’ can be found in its genetic tree along with a rose he would introduce two years later, ‘Morning Magic.’ Its amazing resistance to black spot led researchers, including Dr. David Zlesak, to attempt to discover a possible gene that would open the door to breeding similarly resistant cultivars. Results of their work showed ‘Brite Eyes’ to be resistant to twelve out of the thirteen known races of black spot! Several offspring have been registered and placed in commerce – ‘Sunny

Knock Out,' 'The Champion Sunblush,' 'Pearlescent' (formerly 'Milwaukee's Calatrava'), 'Fuego de Amore,' and 'Femme Fatale.'



'Brite Eyes' - Photo by Stephen Hoy

Two varieties, both Large-Flowered Climbers, were introduced in 2008. The first, 'Morning Magic,' is by far and away my favorite Radler bred rose. Its light pink blooms have ten or so petals and are often four inches in diameter. It makes up for having little scent by being very resistant to black spot. Much of the breeding that went into 'Carefree Sunshine' and 'Brite Eyes' shows up in 'Morning Magic's' family tree with the addition of a dose of *R. rugosa* 'Alba.' I and a hybridizing acquaintance have both raised seedlings that show strong *Rugosa* influence. In my garden it has grown more as a large shrub roughly six feet in height (two meters).



'Morning Magic' - Stephen Hoy



'Winner's Circle' - White Flower Farm

The second of the two introductions, 'Winner's Circle,' hasn't received the same distribution, but seems to be catching on. It has dark red single blooms on a plant that might make a great pillar rose. The new foliage on 'Winner's Circle' is dark, purple red, contrasting beautifully with the blooms. It is also extremely resistant to black spot! Dr. David Zlesak has indicated that it is triploid, but I have found that it produces numerous open-pollinated seedlings.



Left:
'Midwest
Living'

Right:
'Citrus
Burst'

Photos by
Stephen
Hoy



Anyone tried 'Midwest Living' – the rose that is? Although bred in the late 90's this variety wasn't released until 2009. In my garden this moderately sized shrub grows next to 'Knock Out' where its dark red blooms contrast dramatically with the lighter red flowers of its more well-known neighbor. The petals of 'Midwest Living' pinwheel to some extent which has made it a bit difficult to photograph (for this perfection-obsessed picture taker). Published photos show it to have a pretty random number of petals – anywhere from eight to more than double that number. Although it has some black spot resistance compared to many Hybrid Teas, it is not quite as healthy as some of the other Radler hybrids. Still – an interesting color.



Also making its debut in 2009 was 'Citrus Burst,' another Large-Flowered Climber. Its single flowers are creamy white with pink stripes offset by fresh yellow stamens. Whereas many of his crosses involve the use of his own unique hybrids, most unnamed, this rose is the result of a cross of the very healthy Meilland Romantica, 'Johann Strauss' x 'Fourth of July.' It may also be a good candidate to grow as a pillar.

'Fruit Punch' has received zero publicity except from yours truly. All that is stated about it is that it was bred before 2012 and that it was patented in 2016. Its single blooms have wavy petals that are coral orange to orange with a lighter reverse; a glowing yellow eye makes the stamens really pop. My plant has stayed compact at less than three feet in height; as the season progresses the distance between the internodes decreases somewhat like 'Knock Out.' The shiny foliage has decent resistance to black spot.

'Fruit Punch' - Photo by Stephen Hoy

I moved to Georgia in 1978 after enlisting in the United States Air Force Band career field. If I recall correctly it was here that I first heard the phrase “peachy keen.” In 2015 the new variety ‘Peachy Keen’ was awarded both the Best Shrub and Most Disease Resistant Rose at the Biltmore Trials. It is a compact growing shrub with cupped, shell pink semi-double blooms with a hint of yellow. The dark green foliage is about as resistant to black spot as any rose Will Radler has hybridized. Look for Peachy Knock Out® in catalogs.



‘Peachy Keen’ - Photo by Stephen Hoy



Three varieties were released in 2016. ‘Shining Moment’ has deep fuchsia-pink semi-double blooms offset beautifully by golden stamens. The purple tints of its seed parent, Tom Carruth’s ‘Purple Heart,’ add intensity to its color. A strong measure of black spot resistance is inherited from the pollen parent, a seedling that has ‘Morning Magic’ in its background. The foliage on this variety is the darkest green imaginable. ‘Shining Moment’ has stayed right at about three feet (one meter) in height in my garden.

Left: ‘Shining Moment’ - Photo by Stephen Hoy

Right:

‘Honey Nectar’ Photo by NorthWestRider

‘Honey Nectar’ is a beautiful amber to apricot colored variety with ten to fifteen petals that offers a sweet fragrance. Curiously registered as a Grandiflora, many of its blooms arrive one per stem. The exceptionally glossy foliage is again, extremely resistant to black spot. Look for blooms to lighten in color pretty dramatically during the hottest part of the summer.





'Peach Lemonade' - Photo by Stephen Hoy

Mr. Radler chose to work with Greenleaf Nursery Company for two commercial releases. Included in its Garden Debut collection of landscape plants are five roses marketed as 'The Champion' series. 'The Champion Yellow' was patented in 2018 and was bred using several of Mr. Radler's non-patented rose seedlings. The cupped-shaped butter yellow blooms have about fifteen petals and appear continuously throughout the growing season. It was chosen for introduction because of its excellent resistance to black spot, powdery mildew, and rust. New foliage has an attractive red color that contrasts wonderfully with the blooms.

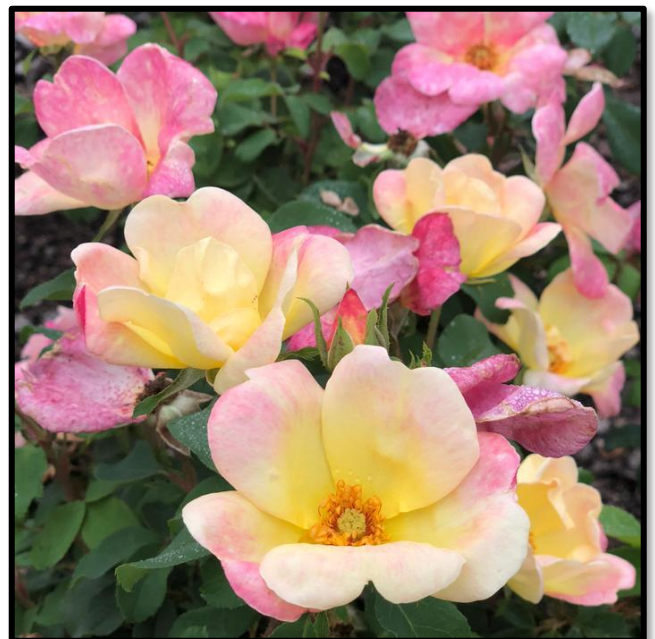


Above: 'The Champion Yellow'

His second Garden Debut introduction was 'The Champion Sunblush,' patented in 2020. Like the above rose, its single blooms are cupped-shaped. In contrast, they open pale yellow but develop a pink edge that suffuses through the bloom as exposed to sunlight. Its habit is compact belying the fact that Mr. Radler's Larger-flowered Climber 'Brite Eyes' is one of parents. 'The Champion Sunblush' was an American Rose Trials for Sustainability winner in 2021, exhibiting outstanding resistance to black spot. [Ed. note; although bred by Radler, the rose was given a Meilland code name.]

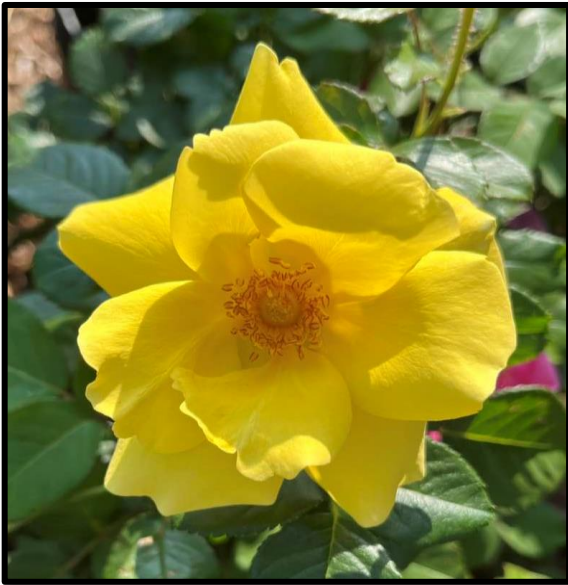
Below: 'The Champion Sunblush'

In 2019 Monrovia Nursery introduced a series of roses using the Grace N' Grit marketing banner. One of the three, 'Grace N' Grit Yellow,' is a Radler-bred variety. Its ten-petaled blooms are lemon yellow and arrive in clusters and one-to-a-stem. Among his yellow landscape varieties this ranks right below 'Carefree Sunshine' for retaining its



color. Its foliage, very black spot resistant, has a nice glossy sheen that sets it apart. It would be an excellent candidate for mass planting.

The last rose in this presentation is a Star Roses introduction. 'Bright & Shiny' was bred in 2006 and finally released in 2020. Its semi-double blooms are a lovely combination of yellow, pink, and apricot hues. I anticipate that it will become a favorite because of its multicolored blooms and exceptional black spot resistance. Although my plant is still young I anticipate it growing slightly larger than several of the more compact varieties mentioned above. Cold climate rose growers take note - one HMF commenter has indicated cane hardiness to -20°F.



'Grace N' Grit Yellow'



'Bright & Shiny'

Photos by Stephen Hoy

The roses presented here clearly fit into the rapidly growing niche of roses that are outstanding candidates for the grower looking for ongoing displays of color from landscape plants that once established require minimal expert care to maintain. All are great pollinator plants, they enhance outdoor living spaces, and are very desirable for the grower conscious of responsibly stewarding the environment. Perhaps best of all, success growing these cultivars will encourage plant enthusiasts to further explore our wonderful world of roses.

There is pain in beauty sometimes,

The rose is proof.

Angel's Breath

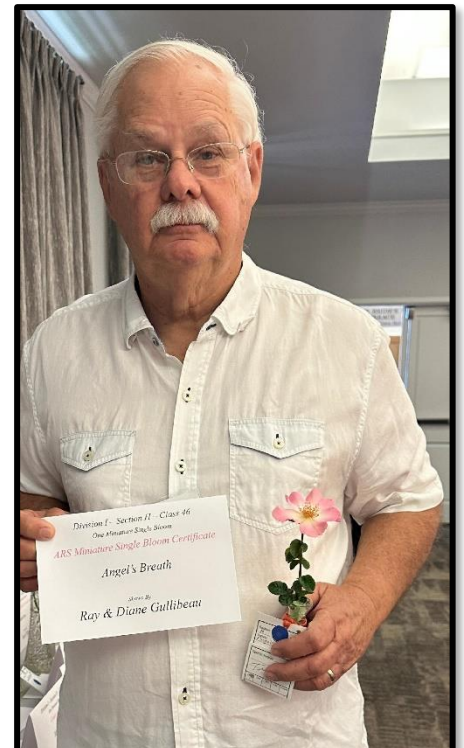
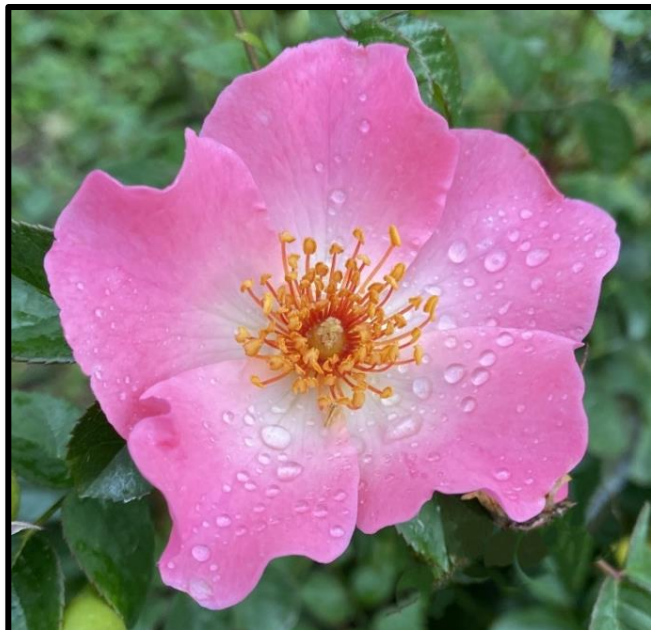
Ray Guillebeau has been a great rose friend for years! He and wife Diane are residents of Jacksonville, Florida and prominent members of our Deep South District Rose Society. Ray has been growing roses for over forty years, has written numerous articles, has successfully competed in photo contests, and presents a wonderful “new introductions” program at our yearly DSD Mid-Winter meeting. In addition, Ray and Diane are a very successful team of exhibitors! An article relating the story of their trip to Shreveport last fall appeared in the January/February 2024 edition of the *American Rose* magazine. How did it go, you ask. They won Miniature Queen with ‘Bob Martin,’ Mini-Flora King with ‘Little Queen,’ the Dee Bennett Memorial Challenge (12 Miniatures at exhibition stage), the J. Benjamin Williams Mini-Flora Challenge (10 Mini-Floras at exhibition stage), the Ralph Moore Challenge (9 Miniatures at exhibition stage), the Best Single Mini/Mini-Flora, and the Hybridizer’s Challenge!



In addition to exhibiting, Ray has also been bitten by the hybridizing bug. In 2018 he harvested several open-pollinated hips from ‘Shar My Love,’ a rose created by our friend Al Whitcomb. The lone seedling that germinated was a carbon copy of its seed parent but in miniature. Its petals were a blend of pink and white and it was fragrant! The bloom size increased to about two and a half inches as it matured, so Ray registered it as a Mini-Flora and named it ‘Angel’s Breath.’ He shared a rooted cutting of it with me two years ago knowing my interest in single-flowered roses. It thrives in my no-spray garden and regularly puts on a great show. Be on the lookout for more of Ray’s hybrids!

‘Angel’s Breath’
&
Ray with his
winning entry
in Shreveport

Photos
By
Ray & Diane





Left:
'Angel's Breath'
Photo by
Stephen Hoy

Center:
'Angel's Smile'
Photo by
Ray Guillebeau

Center:
'Southern Girl'
Miniature

Photos by
Ray Guillebeau

Right:
'Sam Jones'
not registered



Left:
Ray's 2023
Dee Bennett Memorial Challenge
Winning Entry

From the Editor

Here in Georgia the first flush of bloom has come and gone. Although I experienced temperatures that approached freezing on several occasions in late winter, my garden suffered no damage. As seems to be a trend, the roses bloomed earlier than they ever have in my forty-four years of rose growing. My Banksias, as usual, led the way.

As the roses began to bloom in March I was excited to confirm that a sport has appeared on one of my plants of 'Brite Eyes.' The blooms begin all yellow before picking up the pink tints. Now to see if it excites any interest.

A note about some new rose ordering experiences. Like many US rose growers, I've been ordering roses from several main sources over the years. Retailers exclusively offering roses were the norm. However, the availability of a diverse selection of container grown stock is growing exponentially. Readers will note that a number of companies that are not exclusively rose distributors are listed under the **Sources** heading. In many cases they have a unique line of homeowner friendly landscape plants that includes roses that aren't widely available from the big rose wholesale or retail companies. I've also had decent outcomes from ordering off Amazon and Etsy. I recommend that one read the fine print and reviews and adjust expectations accordingly.

On May 5th I was privileged to be part of dedicating a garden intended to feature as many of the roses created by Viru Viraraghavan as may be procured. Pam Greenewald of Angel Gardens in Alachua, Florida suggested the idea and was given the go-ahead by both Viru and Girija before his passing last December. Family and guests attended and were treated to delicious food, a special presentation of rosaries made out of petals from Viru's roses, a program about Viru's warm-climate hybrids, and the actual garden dedication.

Lastly, check with Ray about obtaining plants of his roses, and I offer an apology for the extended interval between this and the last edition of the newsletter - technology issues.

*Photo from the dedication of the Viru Rose Garden at Angel Gardens
with family & friends!*



Sources & Contact Information

All-A-Flutter – not commercially available

Bright & Shiny – High Country Roses, Northland Rosarium, Star Rose outlets

Brite Eyes - ???

Carefree Sunshine – Heirloom Roses, New Life Nursery & Garden, Northland Rosarium

Citrus Burst- ???

Fruit Punch – not commercially available (I just sent cuttings to Mr. Radler at his request)

Grace ‘N Grit Yellow – Monrovia outlets

Honey Nectar - Heirloom

Lemon Meringue – Plant Central, seems to be available more widely in Canada

Midwest Living – seems to have been retired

Morning Magic – ???

Peach Lemonade – Bloomin’ Easy, Jackson & Perkins, New Life Nursery & Garden, White Flower Farm

Peachy Keen (aka Peachy Knock Out) – Amazon, Star Rose outlets, Stark Bros., White Flower Farm

Shining Moment – Star Rose outlets

Winner’s Circle – High Country Roses, Star Rose outlets

The Champion Sunblush – Garden Debut – Greenleaf Nursery Co., Sooner Plant Farms

The Champion Yellow – Garden Debut – Greenleaf Nursery Co., Sooner Plant Farms

‘Winner’s Circle’ on left side of arbor - Photo by Bill Kozemchak



Singularly Beautiful Roses

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Please feel free to share this newsletter!



Left: sport of 'Brite Eyes' -
starts all yellow then fades to pink
Photo by Stephen Hoy

Right: 'Bright & Shiny'
Photo by Joey T



Left: 'Morning Magic'
Photo by Bill Kozemchak