**Penn-Jersey 2009 District Convention**

**The West Jersey Rose Society** is inviting all Rosarians to attend the **Penn-Jersey 2009 District Convention**.  This year’s convention will be held on September 11-13, the weekend following Labor Day and be held at the Holiday Inn, 2175 West Marlton Pike, Cherry Hill, NJ 08002. Phone **1-856-663-5300**[www.holidaycherryhill.com](http://www.holidaycherryhill.com/).  We have gotten a low room night rate of **$109** with the hotel holding that rate until **September 4th**.

 We are looking forward to everyone having a great time. This year West Jersey Rose Society is celebrating our **56th anniversary** and we would like you to help us by attending. We are introducing **two new events** to the convention as well as having all the events you’ve come to expect at the district convention.

 Starting Friday there will be two sets of programs, one for judges and one for arrangers. The programs are scheduled so an individual will be able to complete both judging and arrangement audits in one day.  If you are not sure of your need to complete a horticulture audit, please contact Bruce Monroe, the District Chairman of Judges.  If you are interested in becoming a judge, you must complete the horticulture Judges school and have been an ARS member for three years.  These classes are open to anyone registered at the convention.  This will allow individuals to attend and learn what the judges look for in the different varieties of blooms.

**Pat Bilson the District Arrangement Chairperson** provided the following paragraph:

 “Judges and arrangers, please reserve **Friday, Sept. 11** for an official audit for design judges and a wonderful opportunity for all arrangers to hone their skills.  We will be studying miniature designs including staging in detail. Bring a selection of miniature containers, some miniature roses and some interesting line material as we share roses and other plant material to expand our knowledge of techniques. **The morning will be the** **official part of the judges audit and** **all Penn-Jersey arrangement judges will need to** **attend for re-certification as we are all due.** Lunch is part of the fee schedule. The afternoon workshop is a hands on experience where we will point score a few designs.”

 After our classes are complete we will have the District’s award dinner followed by a chance to talk roses in the hospitality room. If we are able to get the show room set up, we will open it in the evening for the arrangers to start on their arrangements.

 Saturday will start early with a **6 AM opening of the Show Prep Room**.  Judging will start at **10:30 AM**so get your roses in early.  You must register at the convention to enter any classes. **Your convention number will be your exhibitor’s number**.  As part of the rose show, we are adding a photo contest. Copying from our Rose Get-A-Way meetings, the photo contest adds pictures of beautiful roses. So, please bring your rose photographs to enter.

 The rose show opens at **1 PM**. This will be followed by a new and exciting event.  We are happy to offer --**A Rose Themed Afternoon Tea**.  The Afternoon Tea will be held at **1:30 PM.**Enjoy savory tea sandwiches, freshly baked scones and decadent desserts.  Come ...Relax, Savor The Tea and Enjoy the Company of your Friends and Fellow Rosarians. Cost **$25.00 per person.**  This even has **limited seating.**Reservations required. **Please RSVP with registration by September 6, 2009.**

 The afternoon programs continue with talks by **Stephen Scaniello** on “The Truth about Roses Names” and **Mary Peterson** on “Women and Roses.”   Later in the afternoon, we will present the majority of the show awards.  This will be followed by our raffle drawings.

 Our evening banquet will **not**have a speaker.  Instead, this year we will be entertained by **Ken and Ruth Borrman**.  Come and join us for a lyrical evening. Again, after dinner the hospitality room will be open.

**Sunday will bring the District meeting followed by garden tours**.

 We hope that you will register early and make your hotel reservations now.  Plan to spend a late summer weekend with your rose friends here in Cherry Hill. We are working to complete all schedules and put them on our new web site. Click here for the Registration Form. and here for a current Program Schedule.

Click here for the Arrangement Division Rules and Schedule.

Click here for the Horticultural Division Rules and Schedule.

Click here for Photo Competition Rules.

Click here for District Challenge Classes and Trophies.

 I hope to see you this fall at our convention.

Gus Banks

WJRS Convention Chairman