



Brian Puckett

THE AMERICAN ROSE SOCIETY'S UP & COMING ROSARIANS AWARD FOR OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT IN THE PROMOTION OF THE CULTURE AND APPRECIATION OF THE ROSE

As curator of the nation's first municipal Earth-Kind rose trial, Brian Puckett is blazing new trails in the world of roses and is the face of the future of the ARS. At 39, Brian is raising awareness and providing essential educational opportunities so that people of all ages can learn the basics of rose culture nationwide.

Puckett grew up wanting to grow things. From a small veggie garden to cultivating a partnership with one of the nation's preeminent universities, Brian is dedicated to growth. In 2016, he was unanimously appointed to the Helena Beautification Board and was very soon elected Vice Chairman. This municipal board oversees the beautification efforts of the town of Helena, Alabama; population 18,000 and is charged with acting in an advisory capacity to the city council as well as spearheading beautification efforts throughout the town. Capitalizing on a commitment to sustainability, Brian created a plan to plant native perennials in the Old Town historic district. Integral to the plan, was the strategic planting of existing Earth-Kind Rose varieties. These existing varieties created the foundation for a plan to demonstrate to citizens how roses can easily be integrated into the landscape. As a vital educational element to this project, Brian created plant ID markers with a special QR code that would direct passersby to the Helena Beautification Board website where they will find information on that variety as well as planting and growing tips.



Brian Puckett, photo John Hodge Photography.

Brian then reached out to Dr. Steve George at Texas A & M and began a conversation about the possibility of Helena becoming the very first municipality in the United States to host an Earth-Kind Rose Trial. A proposal was submitted and was unanimously approved by the Helena City Council and endorsed by the Mayor. On October 14, 2017 in a ceremony marking the occasion, 78 roses were planted, representing 24 cultivars and the rose trial began. As curator of the trial, Brian was among those who accepted a Presidential Citation from the President of the ARS in recognition of the city's outstanding service to the community. His hard work, planning and dedication helped make this all possible.

"Brian Puckett was instrumental in bringing a research trial of this magnitude to Helena and we were proud to partner with Texas A & M in this effort. Planning and preparation are everything and the collaboration and planning efforts of board members Chris VanCleave and Brian Puckett is something that is rarely seen today and they executed this plan with excellence", said Helena Mayor Mark Hall.



Brian Puckett planting roses with daughter Mallory, photo Chris VanCleave.

It's not often we see such a powerhouse of energy in the rose world. Every municipal board, horticultural society and plant group should be so lucky to have a Brian Puckett on their team to prepare and plan and execute on ideas, educate the public and do it with the level of excellence that he exhibits.