

## **John & Donna Hefner**

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Updated: January 21, 2016

John Hefner, a retired public school educator by profession, loves to share his knowledge of growing roses with others and was featured as a guest speaker at several district and national conventions held across the nation.

John and his wife Donna live in Greenwood, Indiana and at one time maintained a garden of over 600 rose plants. Their garden currently has 150 hybrid tea, miniflora and miniature roses as well as perennials, hostas and daylilies. The Hefner's garden was featured during the 1979 and 1995 American Rose Society Fall National Conventions and the 2005 American Rose Society National Miniature Conference.

Being an avid exhibitor, John grows varieties with exhibition potential. He has been exhibiting roses for 45 years and has won over 70 Queens of Show. John was recognized as one of the top rose exhibitors in the United States, having won 32 American Rose Society national trophies (some multiple times), including 5 national Queens of Show.

John retired in 2007 after working 41 years in the field of education. He currently is an Emeritus Judge, receiving the Illinois/Indiana District's Outstanding Rosarian Award in 1993 and Outstanding Judge Award in 1995. He received the American Rose Society's Master Rosarian Award in 2006 and is currently an Emeritus Rosarian. He was awarded the American Rose Society, Illinois/Indiana District Silver Honor Medal in 1991, and the American Rose Society Bronze Honor Medal in 1998. Donna also was awarded the American Rose Society Bronze Honor Medal in 1996 and the American Rose Society Silver Medal in 2013. He and Donna were awarded the Blake Hedrick Award for Rose Exhibiting Excellence in 2009.

John's articles on exhibiting roses and care of roses have been published on the local, district and national levels. He has served on the American Rose Society's National Prizes and Awards Committee, National Convention Planning Committee, National Publications Committee and the Miniature Award of Excellence Committee. He also served as the Illinois/Indiana District Director of the American Rose Society during 2004-2005.

John has hybridized two miniatures, **Ellen Griffin** and the 1990 Miniature Award of Excellence winner **Regine**, a pink-blend miniature rose. John was responsible for the 1991 introduction of **Classic Touch**, a light pink hybrid tea that sported from **Touch of Class**.