



Ohio State HCS News

HORTICULTURE & CROP SCIENCE IN VIRTUAL PERSPECTIVE - THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

hcs.osu.edu/news

Minton Rose Garden Expands Learning Opportunities



Stephen Myers and Dean Bob Moser thank Janice Minton Wood for her support of the Chadwick Arboretum & Learning Gardens and Horticulture & Crop Science students.

Through the generosity of **Janice Minton Wood** and the family of **Dr. John Peter Minton**, future Ohio State students and the general public at large will benefit from hands-on experiences working in and learning in the ornamental gardens of the [Chadwick Arboretum & Learning Gardens](#). The new endowment established the John Peter Minton Memorial Rose Garden and expanded the educational and ornamental plant internship opportunities for students of Horticulture & Crop Science at OSU. On June 3rd 2006, family and friends gathered in front of Howlett Hall to unveil the living memorial to John Peter Minton.

"The Chadwick Arboretum & Learning Gardens is celebrating its 25th anniversary this year and now we have another new garden to showcase nature's bountiful beauty. The John Peter Minton Memorial Rose Garden expands our teaching collections into another realm of plants that have been cultivated since ancient times in the far reaches of this planet - the fragrant and prolific rose," exclaimed **Mary Maloney**, outreach coordinator for the Arboretum. Already put to use by a plant materials class, the Minton Rose Garden is intended to be both a learning lab and a garden of leisure for those who work on or visit the OSU's agriculture campus.



The new John Peter Minton Memorial Rose Garden showcases over thirty varieties of roses and more than forty total roses.

Designed by Chadwick Arboretum horticulturist **Kathy Burkholder**, the newly located Minton Rose Garden showcases over thirty varieties of roses and more than forty total roses. Instead of creating a traditional rose garden with beds of roses, Burkholder's design demonstrates how to incorporate roses with other ornamental plants such as trees, shrubs, and perennials. "The Minton Rose Garden focuses on the new low maintenance landscape roses, which are resistant to diseases and do not require winter protection," Burkholder

protection, thus making them ideal for commercial properties and home owners wanting lower maintenance gardens," Burkholder explained.

Emeritus Professor of landscape horticulture, **Steven Still** PhD, praised the new addition to the Learning Gardens and lamented the lack of such a resource while he was educating budding horticulturists. "The Minton Rose Garden is one of the final jewels to be placed in the ornamental crown that surrounds Howlett Hall, the home of landscape horticulture at The Ohio State University. I was born too early, I missed the opportunity to use this rose garden as a teaching tool. I am envious of those who follow who will have this marvelous attribute to use for teaching. This new garden is an excellent example of how various rose species and cultivars can be used in concert with other herbaceous and woody plant materials to create a very effective ornamental landscape," said Dr. Still.



Chadwick horticulturist Kathy Burkholder, who designed the new rose garden, works with students during the installation process.

An accomplished rosarian in his leisure time, John Peter Minton, MD, PhD had just turned 56 when he died from injuries in an auto accident in December 1990. He was a world renowned surgical oncologist at the Ohio State University Hospitals, and a professor of surgery in OSU's Medical School; his tenure included many teaching and professional appointments including professorships in the departments of Zoology and Microbiology and in the school of Health, Physical Education and Recreation.

Dr. Minton's innovative leadership in cancer research, education, and prevention set a standard that many have benefitted from and few have emulated since. At the time of his death Dr. Minton had been recognized internationally for developing a surgical practice that removed tumors that had spread to the liver from the colon.



Janice Minton Wood hopes the new Rose Garden will honor her husband's legacy as an educator, a researcher, and a rosarian.

The original Minton Rose Garden was located on OSU's main campus west of the Main Library near Campbell Hall. However an OSU construction project required the garden to be relocated. Though the proposed move of the garden was initially upsetting to the Minton family, **Stephen Myers**, former chair of Horticulture & Crop Science Department, forged a strong partnership with Janice Minton Wood to properly commemorate Dr. Minton's commitment to education and roses. With the department, Wood created a

new vision for a progressive rose garden that captures the legacy of John Minton as both an educator and a dedicated rosarian. To honor the historical legacy of the original Horticulture Gardens once located on main campus, the new Minton Garden includes bricks from the wall of the original garden.

At the unveiling of the new garden, Myers thanked the Minton family for adding the Rose Garden to the expanding Learning Gardens, which also include the Katherine Van Fossen Wildflower Garden, the Bert & Jo Kleinmaier Perennial Garden and a newly planted perennial garden designed by Adrian Bloom.



"You are bringing the rose gardens over to where the people that love horticulture and gardens work. They have a vested interest and passion to take care of these gardens. We believe that John would really appreciate the fact that the rose garden will be integrated in with the research and teaching of Ohio State University with the students, staff and faculty who value such activities. They will be able to care for the Rose Garden and the public will be able to enjoy and benefit from the Rose Garden in context with all the other gardens," said Myers.



The Minton Rose Garden enhances the educational opportunities in the ornamental gardens located around Howlett Hall.



On June 3rd 2006, Dr. Minton's extended family gathered in front of Howlett Hall to unveil the living memorial in his name.

[College of Food, Agricultural and Environmental Sciences](#) Dean **Bob Moser** thanked the extended Minton family for supporting future OSU students through a scholarship fund. "When you put an endowment in place at Ohio State University it is there forever - in perpetuity. Now there will always be a rose garden and there will always be someone to maintain the garden," said Dean Moser. "The fund also gives a student an experience which is second to none. Outstanding students will be chosen to work in the gardens and be mentored by a horticulturist through the internship program. You can't make a better investment than investing into the life of young person."

Janice Minton Wood concluded the ceremony by reflecting on the significance of roses to her husband's legacy. "This has been a vision and a dream a longtime coming. Roses provided for John a perfect setting for some of the things that we all need. Nurture of our souls, a respite place to stroll, to relax, to get away from the intensity of cancer, cancer care, teaching, and research. Since John was an educator and a researcher, that legacy continues here and may it continue forever. This garden is so very special to us. Roses, teaching, research, experimenting, nurturing youth and all of this at Ohio State University."

Watch a narrated slideshow of this story with additional photos here: [Minton Rose Garden Expands Learning Opportunities Slideshow](#). Free [Quicktime](#) software is required to view the slideshow.

Photos by Lauren Farr and Victor van Buchem. Story and web publishing by [Victor van Buchem](#).

Published June 16 2006 - <http://HCS.OSU.EDU>