

# Gardener dubbed a real rose

## Upper Arlington man honored at convention

By **Michael Leach**  
THE COLUMBUS DISPATCH

A rose by any other name might smell as sweet, but perhaps not to John Dickman of Upper Arlington.

He is the honoree in the naming of a new rose — Dr. John Dickman — to be introduced in 2004 by Bridges Miniature Roses of Lawndale, N.C.

Rose breeders Dennis and Suzy Bridges are recognizing Dickman's work educating gardeners about roses.

The announcement of the rose naming was to come last night at the American Rose Society's miniature rose convention, which continues today at the Holiday Inn at I-270 and Rt. 23 in Worthington.

For almost a dozen years, Dickman has been answering growers' questions in the American Rose Society's maga-



**John Dickman has a rose named for him.**

zine, sent to the 22,000-plus members. He also is a former president of both the Central Ohio Rose Society and the Columbus Rose Club.

“We think he's a real gentleman and has done a lot for roses,” Suzy Bridges said.

“He has educated so many people.”

Dennis Bridges praised Dickman's integrity, knowledge and the thoroughness with which he answered questions in his column.

“I'm highly honored that a hybridizer wants to pick me out,” said Dickman, a medical biochemist retired from Chemical Abstracts Service.

His tutoring abilities come naturally. Dickman taught high-school chemistry a few years before serving in the Army in Korea.

Dickman began growing roses in

1967, when he and his wife, Sue, planted a half dozen to add color to a new fence.

The Dickmans soon joined the American Rose Society to learn more about roses. They eventually became show judges.

They grow about 80 roses, down from a peak of 250.

The new rose started life as a seed, produced from a cross between two roses.

Seeds are sown in a greenhouse at Christmas and the new plants flower the following spring, Suzy Bridges said.

While the breeder immediately knows the color and growth habit, other characteristics, such as hardiness, are observed over a period of several years before the rose is deemed worthy for market.

Plants are propagated by cuttings, a process that takes several years to produce enough bushes to sell.

Dr. John Dickman the rose sports 1½- to 2-inch deep lavender flowers on a



**Dr. John Dickman, the flower**

plant that grows about 24 inches tall. It's a miniflora, a rose with characteristics of miniatures and larger floribundas.

“I think it's a very nice rose,” said

Dickman. Still, he wonders how well it will sell.

“I don't think the name will seem that romantic.”

[mleach@dispatch.com](mailto:mleach@dispatch.com)