
THORNY BUSH

Newsletter of The Huntington Rose Society; Huntington, WV

Affiliated with the American Rose Society

Volume 26 Issue 1

February 2007

Dates to Remember

February 20, 2007 The first meeting of 2007 will begin at **7:30 P.M.** The meeting will take place in the Fellowship Hall of Central Christian Church, 1202 Fifth Avenue. The program will be on Floribundas given by Monica Valentovic. Hospitality will be provided by John and Jan Ball. Please come and see some pictures of roses and start thinking about Spring!!

March 16-17, 2007 Colonial District PReSpring Meeting sponsored by the Patrick Henry Rose Society. The meeting will take place at the Quality Inn-Dutch Inn located in Collinsville, VA. Contact Janice and Glen Sellers 276-632-6128. There is more information in this newsletter.

DISCLAIMER: The Editor's believe the information contained in this newsletter is accurate and up to date. However, the Editors do not guarantee the accuracy of any article nor do we provide any endorsement or warranty. The Society and the Editor's do not accept any legal responsibilities for omissions or errors that have been made in this newsletter.

President's Message Monica Valentovic

Greetings to all! On behalf of the executive committee, I would like to wish everyone a healthy and happy 2007. May you also have many enjoyable hours in your rose gardens this year!

This is my first President's message and I want to take this opportunity to thank our outgoing officers. Beverly did a great job as President in leading the society for 2 years. Bill Dolen provided good programs for us throughout the year. John Ball, outgoing Treasurer kept us in good financial state. Special thanks also go to our recording secretary John Northeimer for his excellent minutes, Cheryl Johnson our Corresponding secretary and Rudy Wang our Assistant Treasurer. I would also like to especially thank Archie and Linda Snedegar who have been rose show chairs and excellent liaisons with the Huntington Mall and Joe Johnson. I am very relieved that Archie and Linda have agreed to be our Rose Show Chairs for the 2007 Fall Rose Show.

It is February and we have had the longest stretch in years of cold weather, subzero temperatures at night and snow. Although many people don't enjoy this cold weather, you have to admit it is much better than freezing rain and power outages. The one thing good for the roses is that they have been covered in our yard for the past week by a layer of snow which is helping buffer their winter nap.

Although the weather has been unseasonable cold for the past 2 weeks, I hope you are willing to attend our first meeting of 2007. It will be a Powerpoint presentation on floribundas.

It comes from the American Rose Society and is filled with plenty of beautiful roses in bloom. Who knows, you may find a rose that you just have to add to your garden. I hope to see you at the meeting!!

👉 2007 ROSE SOCIETY DUES 👈

It is time to renew your membership for 2007. Membership dues remain at \$8 for individual and \$12 for a family membership. Please send your dues to: Gary O. Rankin, Treasurer, 109 Cedar Court Rolling Hills, Lavalette, WV 25535.

The Society is further seeking additional donors to help defray the yearly costs incurred by the Society. The levels of donation are denoted as: Queen, King, Princess and Prince levels. Donations at the Prince (\$10-25); Princess (\$26-50), King (\$51-99) and Queen (\$100 or more) levels will be acknowledged in our newsletter.

Remember that our rose society is a 501 C-3 non-profit organization and any donations are tax deductible.

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November Banquet

The annual rose society banquet took place on Tuesday, November 14, at the Fellowship Hall of Central Christian Church. There were 26 people in attendance and everyone had a good time. The meal was excellent thanks to all the members that brought their favorite dishes! There was plenty of turkey, deviled eggs, broccoli, sweet potato, potato and corn casseroles, salads, cranberries, rolls and dessert. After everyone had their fill, the

business meeting was called to order by President Beverly Delidow. The slate of officers was read, approved and voted upon by the members present. The officers were then installed by John Fleek, our Colonial District Director. We are very fortunate to have John install our officers.

Following installation of the new officers, the drawing for door prizes began with anticipation of who would win the beautiful centerpiece provided by Spurlock Flowers. The centerpiece was won by Mrs. Tomkies driver and wife and I am sure it made their night eventful. Other prize winners took home chocolate, calendars, fertilizer and candles. Everyone pitched in to clean up the hall and we left full of food and good fellowship and wishes of happy holidays.



OFFICERS FOR 2007

The executive committee for 2007 was installed at the November banquet. The officers are:

**President Monica Valentovic
304-697-0321**

**Vice President Beverly Delidow
304-429-4211**

**Treasurer Gary Rankin
304-697-0321**

**Assistant Treasurer Rudy Wang
304-736-0535**

**Recording Secretary Beth White
304-733-2004**

**Corresponding Secretary Cheryl
Johnson
740-886-6240**

Please be willing to help our society when called upon by one of our officers. Remember this society is your society and its strength is its members!! This means you!!!

Orders for Mills Magic Mix

Orders for Mills Magic Mix and Mills Easy Feed will be taken by phone. Please call Gary or Monica (697-0321) if you are interested in ordering Mills Magic Mix by **Tuesday, February 27**. You can also send your order by e-mail to Valentov@marshall.edu or Rankin@marshall.edu.

If you are not familiar with this product, it is an excellent organic fertilizer. The components of Mills Magic Mix include alfalfa meal, bone meal, fish meal, sewer sludge and cottonseed meal. One 20-pound bag will feed 30 large roses or 60 miniatures. It is best to feed your roses Mills Magic Mix in the Spring and feeding a half-dose in mid-July. Feeding two times adds organic matter to the soil and provides a slow, non-burning feeding of your roses. Mills Magic Mix when applied in the Spring helps increase microbial activity in the soil. Each bag will cost **\$14.27** if we can get an order of 50 bags. We will once again combine our order with the Charleston Rose Society in order to get 50 bags. This is a **big** savings from the normal retail price of **\$26** for one 20# bag. You are almost getting it at half-price by ordering through the society!!

We also will take orders for Mills Easy Feed liquid. This is a complete formula that can be used to fertilize your roses and contains magnesium and fish emulsion components. The cost of Mills

Easy Feed is \$15.15 for 1/2 gallon (feeds 128 roses at a level of 1 TBSP/gallon water) and \$26.03 for a gallon. The Mills Magic Mix and Easy Feed should be available at the March meeting.

Other products that are also available include: greensand 50# \$19.30; fish emulsion (1 gal, \$9.75); alfalfa meal, (50#, \$14.40); kelp liquid (1 gal. \$15.50); and liquid seaweed (1 gal, \$14.00). These prices have not changed from last year!!

A new product being offered by Beatty Fertilizer Company is Bloomkote. Bloomkote is a 16-18-14 time release fertilizer formulated to specifically feed roses for four (4) months. A 20# bag is \$45.00 (1 cup/rose, feeds 35 roses).

Colonial District Pre-Spring Meeting

The Pre-Spring Meeting for the Colonial District will take place Friday and Saturday, March 16 and 17 at the Quality Inn- Dutch Inn located in Collinsville, VA. The meeting is hosted by the Patrick Henry Rose Society which is located in New Martinsville, VA. The contacts for the meeting are Glen and Janice Sellers and their phone number is 276-632-6128.

Activities begin Friday afternoon with the registration desk opening from 3-7 PM. A welcome reception from 6-7:30 will provide ample time for all to reacquaint with old friends and make new friends. The program Friday evening is a panel discussion on **How to Grow Your Rose Society**. The meeting will also have a photo contest which was a great success at the Fall meeting in Charleston last year.

Saturday programs begin bright and early at 8:15 AM. The Saturday program is packed with informative talks. Programs in the morning include **Mini and Minifloras** by Susan Clingenpeel, **Soil Enhancements** by Melanie Barrow a County Extension Agent, **Watering Systems for your Rose Garden** by Berry Hill Irrigation. A buffet lunch, which is included in the registration, will allow everyone to enjoy lunch and not have to drive and find a restaurant.

Saturday afternoon is again filled with plenty of good speakers that you will want to hear. Don Myer, the past National Consulting Rosarian Chair will give a talk on **Safety with Chemicals**. Other talks include: **Earthkind Roses** by Blake Robinson, **Arrangements with Roses** by Janice Sellers and finally the **District Business Meeting**.

The activities on Saturday evening begin with the 6 PM social hour followed by the banquet. The banquet will be followed by a rose auction led by the world famous auctioneer, George Wilson.

A registration form has been provided in this newsletter. Additional information is available at the colonial district website www.colonialdistrictroses.org. The deadline for meeting registration is March 5th. Hotel registration should be made directly with the Quality Inn – Dutch Inn 1-276-647-3721. The room rate is \$64.95/night single or double and mention that you are with the Patrick Henry Rose Society Pre-Spring Meeting of the Colonial District. Hope you can make your plans as soon as possible to attend the Colonial District Pre-Spring meeting in Martinsville, VA, March 16-17th.

In Memorium

Randy Scott

April 6, 1943 - February 8, 2007

We were saddened to learn that Randy Scott of Fairfax, Virginia passed away after a long illness on Thursday, February 8, 2007. Many of you know Randy from his outstanding exhibiting within the Colonial District and on the National level. He was a Consulting Rosarian and was awarded the Outstanding Consulting Rosarian Award from the Colonial District in 2000. He was also a Horticultural Judge and most recently has served as the Colonial District representative to the National ARS Awards Committee. A memorial service for Randy will be held Saturday, February 17, 2007, 10:00 A.M., at the Everly Funeral Home, 10565 Main Street, Fairfax, VA 22030. Phone 703/385-1110.

Basic Tools for Rosarians

Gary O. Rankin

Here in West Virginia, February is a month spent indoors rather than in the garden. While some local nurseries will begin to receive their new roses bare root roses for potting, most of us will be waiting until March or early April for the roses we ordered to arrive. So what does the “itchy” rose enthusiast do in February? One possibility is to take stock of your rose growing tools and accessories, replace old worn out tools, and order or buy new garden toys – ah, tools.

Some stores are still liquidating last years gardening supplies, so there are bargains to be had. And, new items are arriving daily as nurseries are re-opening and gardening departments of local stores are being stocked. Remember, the early bird gets the worm, and our stores don't always re-

order when their stock of something is gone. So, start cruising those gardening departments and beat everyone else (except me!) to getting the latest gardening gadget and replacing basics that are beyond what anyone else would ever use. Here are a few basic tools for rose growers that you should already have, replace if worn out or get if you don't have them:

Gloves There are lots of different kinds of gloves including cloth, leather, goatskin, nitrile, mud (rubber and cloth), thorn protection, and fashionable. If the gloves are cheap, don't buy them. I prefer the goatskin gloves for most purposes as they are lightweight, flexible and offer excellent protection. Nitrile gloves are excellent for use when applying pesticides and can be purchased at many stores including auto supply stores.

Shovel Most rose growers have a long - handled shovel. Now is the time to make sure that your shovel has a sharp blade and a strong handle. If the handle is getting weak, you might want to replace your shovel. Also consider getting a short-handled shovel. These shovels are excellent for mixing soil in a wheelbarrow, planting mini/miniflora roses or working close to the ground when you need a shovel.

Pruners Only buy bypass pruners for pruning roses. You can pay \$40+ for Felco pruners, \$25 for Fiskars Powergear pruners, \$35 for Barnes pruners, or as little as \$5 for a cheap pair of bypass pruners at stores like Big Lots. Small bypass pruners for miniature roses can cost as little as \$1-\$2. The cheaper pairs only last a year or two, but for the price they can be replaced frequently. Also get a kitchen knife

sharpener (~\$5) that will fit in your hand and has a shield to protect your fingers. These items are great for sharpening pruner blades.

Loppers Every rose growers needs a pair of loppers for cutting large canes. We have several brands, but my favorite is the Fiskars PowerGear loppers. They are lightweight, have orange tipped handles for seeing them easily in the yard and stay sharp for a long, long time.

Knee Pad Knee pads are short pieces of foam to put under your knees when kneeling in the garden. They are cheap (as little as \$1 on sale), easy to use and save your knees. Get one with a cut out that makes a handle.

Back brace Back braces are also great ways to protect your lower back when digging, mixing soil in a wheelbarrow or carrying heavy bags of garden stuff.

Soil Knife You need a weeding tool and the soil knife from A.M. Leonard Co. is the best. The orange handle makes it easy to see. Cost is now about \$18.

Three-pronged digging tool You will need a tool for working granular fertilizers, organics, etc. into the soil. Make sure the head is forged as one piece. The center prong often breaks if welded on.

Water Wand Water is key to rose growing. Water wands with heads that adjust the spray are best as you can water with them or adjust the water to a strong stream for blasting spider mites!

Bucket Everyone needs buckets to carry gardening supplies and yard waste. Get them free at home building sites (used to hold joint compound for drywall).

