
THORNY BUSH

Newsletter of The Huntington Rose Society; Huntington, WV

Affiliated with the American Rose Society

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April, 2009

Dates to Remember

April 21, 2009 is our regular monthly meeting. The meeting will be at Central Christian Church, 1202 Fifth Avenue beginning at **7:30 P.M.**. The program for the evening will be **Pruning Shrub Roses & The Glory of Mottisfont with David Stone on DVD**. If you have Old Garden, David Austin or Modern Shrub roses this may have some helpful tips. Helen Peters will provide hospitality.

June 7, 2009 Charleston Rose Society Rose Show will take place at the University of Charleston. The show coincides with Symphony Sunday. You can contact Steve and Lynda Grass, Rose Show Chairs, at 304-345-3634.

June 18 – 24, 2009 ARS Spring National Convention and Rose Show Westin Bayshore in Vancouver, BC Contact Sarah Lewis, Convention and Festival Manager Email: sarah@seatoskymeetings.com

July 17 - 19 2009 ARS All-Miniature Rose Conference and Rose Show Radisson Penn Harris Hotel & Convention Center, Harrisburg, PA. Contact Glenn Smith by phone 717-938-9991 or email cowboysdal@aol.com if interested.

September 20, 2009 The Huntington Rose Society Rose Show will be held on Sunday, September 20, 2009 at the Huntington Mall, Barboursville, WV. Set up will be held on Saturday evening starting at 9:00 pm. For more information contact Rose Show Co-Chairs, Gary Rankin & Monica Valentovic TEL: 304-697-0321: e-mail Gary at

rankin@marshall.edu or Monica at valentov@marshall.edu.

September 25-27, 2009 Colonial District Fall Meeting and Show will be hosted by Richmond Rose Society in Richmond, VA. September 25-27, 2009. The theme of the show is "Kaleidoscope of Roses". Contact Carol Fox CarolFox@scc.virginia.gov, Don Penzler dpenzler@verizon.net, or Willie Mills willie1091@comcast.net for more information.

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President's Message Beverly Delidow

Is it even possible to look at the roses leafing out in April and not smile ear to ear? With the mild weather and good rains, my little minis have burst into foliage and are raring to go. It will be another week or so before all danger of frost is past, but there's no stopping them now. It's so nice to be out in the garden again. It's a busy time, with much to do. We are fortunate that there are so many good resources out there to help, starting with all the wonderful consulting rosarians in our own society. In addition, I found a new source for good information on the internet in Carolyn Parker's Rose Notes. Carolyn Parker is a gardener, photographer

and writer in California and her website is lovely and entertaining. This month there are several new postings about rose pegging

(http://rosenotes.typepad.com/rose_notes/2009/02/pegging.html), gardening gloves (http://rosenotes.typepad.com/rose_notes/2009/02/gardening-gloves.html) and pruning (http://rosenotes.typepad.com/rose_notes/2009/02/rose-pruning.html).

Because spring clean-up and the new season is upon us, we have a fun program this month to inspire you to pull out your own gardening gloves, grab the pruners and get on out there. We will be showing a video produced by Ashdown Roses of David Stone demonstrating his pruning methods for shrub roses. David Stone is the head gardener of Mottisfont Abbey, which holds the rose collections of Graham Stuart Thomas. The preview was quite entertaining and I'm looking forward to seeing it again, with all of you.

Best to all – and, best of all, with roses on the way. -- Beverly

☞ 2009 ROSE SOCIETY DUES ☜

If you have not done so already, then it is time to renew your 2009 membership. Membership dues remain at \$8 for individual and \$12 for a family membership. Please send your dues to: Monica Valentovic, Treasurer, 109 Cedar Court, 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.

The Huntington Rose Society is a 501 C-3 non-profit organization and any donations are tax deductible.

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The kaleidoscopic colors of roses

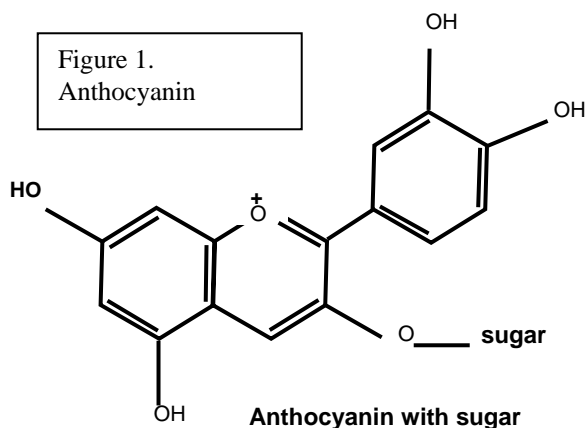
Part One: How roses get color

Beverly Delidow

Wander through a rose garden in bloom and it is a joy for the senses: The scent and sight of roses, the whisper of a breeze and soft hum from insects. It's the essence of summer in a moment. We often enjoy a lovely moment in the garden without thinking about how it came to be. But there is a hidden beauty that helps roses produce the beautiful colors we enjoy. Because I study pigment-producing cells in animals and humans, I was curious to find out how roses do this, too. There is a fascinating chemistry at work. Rose petals get their beautiful colors from a surprising array of chemicals that the flowers can make themselves. These chemicals come from the nutrients the plants take in and then transform into pigments (color-yielding compounds) using the unique set of machinery each rose contains.

There are wonderful and complex steps to producing pigments in any plant. Roses are no exception. The instructions for which pigments each rose will make are carried in its genetic material. The instructions direct the development of machinery very like an assembly line that can take basic building blocks from the nutrients the plants receive and join them in preset patterns to transform them step by step into pigment compounds. The instructions also tell the rose, which compounds to make and how much of each pigment to make, so that each rose has a characteristic tone and depth to its color.

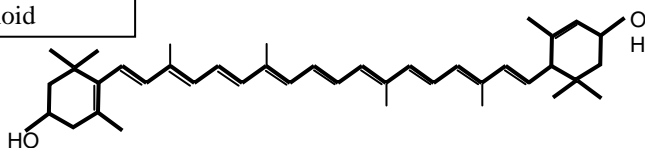
The color compounds that roses can make come in two general types called anthocyanins and carotenes. The chemical structure of the pigments allows them to absorb some colors of light – the colors left over are the ones we see. Anthocyanins span colors from reds to blues (Figure 1). These pigments are present in beautiful red roses like Mr. Lincoln and the apothecary



rose. Carotenes (they are the major pigment in carrots, too) are yellow and orange (Figure 2). Roses like Sunsprite and *Rosa foetida* contain lots of carotenoid pigments. The exact mix of these two pigment types helps to determine the final color of the petal.

A third type of compound called flavonoids is also present (Figure 3). These compounds are related to the anthocyanins, but some of them don't have color. Instead

Figure 2. Lutein, a Carotenoid

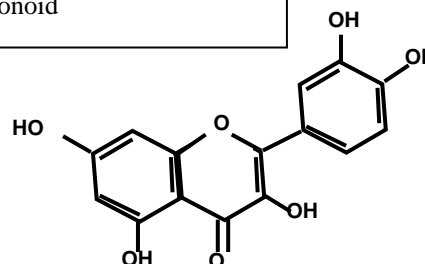


they help to stabilize the pigments, making them last longer. They also contribute to another wonderful property of roses – their perfume. A white rose like Iceberg has mostly colorless compounds in its petals, so it has very little color.

Not only do different roses make different compounds, they also deposit the pigments

in their petals in different ways, allowing some patterning. We see a rose petal as a thin and lovely work of art, but it has a layered structure. There are three layers to a petal – an upper surface skin, a central region, and a lower surface skin. This explains an important property of roses that the gardener already knows. It is important that roses receive enough water to keep

Figure 3. Quercetin, a flavonoid



fluid supplied to that inner portion to maintain petal shape and structure. It also explains how the upper and lower surfaces of a rose petal may be different colors, and we'll consider those special cases another time.

The unique machinery each rose has determines which compounds it will make and deposit in its petals. But for all the wonderful colors they can make, one thing all roses have in common is that they do not have the machinery to make dark blue compounds. So we do not yet have deep blue roses for our gardens. For myself – all those beautiful whites, reds, oranges, pinks, and yellows are riches enough.

April In the Garden Monica Valentovic

April is an extremely busy month in the garden. The effort you put into your garden this Spring will reap you many hours of enjoyment in the summer and fall bloom season. April is a time to put down your organic fertilizers which provides a slow release of nutrients and amends the soil. All fertilizers can be applied in April as your

plants are hungry for a good shot of Nitrogen to begin the growing season. The microbial breakdown of fertilizers and fixation of nitrogen by bacteria requires a soil temperature of 55 degrees or higher. We keep a soil thermometer in our garden and it provides a good marker of when the soil is finally warming up and the beginning of the growing season.

April is a time to begin to uncover your roses. April is also the time to begin to prune your roses for the 2009 growing season. This month's program is on pruning **Shrub** Roses and will provide an excellent discussion of what to do to your roses to produce the best bloom this summer.

Many rose growers are anxious to uncover their roses. However, once you uncover your roses and complete your Spring pruning it is important to be vigilant of the weather conditions. April already has shown us significant temperature variations between freezing temperatures to upper 60's all in a 24 hour period. You may need to cover the tender growth in the early evening to prevent frost damage. Another option is to spray all vegetation with water in the early morning prior to direct sunshine on the plants. Another issue that is common in the Spring is wind and wilting of new growth. New growth is tender and is more susceptible to evaporation when exposed to wind. April afternoons are often breezy and unless plants are sufficiently watered, new growth may wilt. We often lightly water new growth in the early afternoon (around 2-3 PM) to allow for plenty of time for the water to evaporate. Watering helps the plant handle windy conditions and reduce wilt of new growth. It is very important to thoroughly water new plants as they do not have a sufficient root system to feed new growth. So far we have had 1" of rain each week but if we do not have adequate rainfall, then you need to water your roses.

New growth is more tender than mature canes. It is good to lightly support new canes with a thin green plastic garden

stake. This reduces the potential of breakage of new canes in April breezes.

April is the time to start preventing methods to reduce disease. If you have not yet done so, clean out all old leaves and canes from your rose beds. The removal of plant debris will lessen the spread of fungal disease. April is the best time to begin preventive measures of spraying roses as soon as the leaves start to come out. Once you begin to spray keep up a regular program every 7-10 days until the end of October. Be sure to wear protective gear of nitrile gloves, mask and goggles.

Although April chores of removing mulch, pruning, spraying and weeding are not too exciting. Remember that this effort will be rewarded later on in the summer. Good luck in your garden.

Thank You to Our Sponsors!

The Huntington Rose Society would like to express our gratitude to the following businesses who have agreed to be sponsors for our Yearbook. Please be sure to support our sponsors you're your business!! As of April 15th, the following sponsors have renewed and we want to thank them!

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Hatcher's Greenhouse

Huntington Dog & Cat Hospital

Lavalette Nursery

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STAR USA Federal Credit Union

Tristate Eyecare

***Be sure to support the supporters of
the Huntington Rose Society!!!***

NEW ROSES for 2009!

Spring is a time to renew your interest in roses. We all are peeking at our roses and seeing how they survived the Winter of 2008-2009. If you have some extra room or you need to replace some roses that did not survive the winter, then now is the time to visit our nurseries and pick out a new rose to plant in the garden. Below are some large rose varieties that you might want to consider that are new for 2009. Next month Gary will list some miniature and miniflora varieties.

Carefree Spirit, AARS 2009 Winner, is a **shrub** rose that would be great in your landscape. The rose has a tendency to branch but provide clusters of deep cherry red blooms contrasted with dark green glossy foliage. The blooms have 5-6 petals with a 2-2.5" bloom size. The blooms have a yellow center and white eye. The rose is reported to be very disease resistant.

Cinco de Mayo, 2009 AARS Winner, is a **floribunda**. The color is very unique and is described as a smoky lavender and rusty red-orange. The color will be smokier with cooler weather in the Spring and Fall. If you like Hot Cocoa, [the rose- not the beverage], then you might want to consider this rose. The rose is a seedling of **Julia Child** and **Topsy Turvy**. The sprays have retained the cluster bloom tendency of Julia Child. The rose also has super-clean glossy-green foliage and is a bushy, medium sized plant. The petal count is 25.

Pink Promise, 2009 AARS Winner, This light pink **Hybrid tea** rose has a cause. **Pink Promise** is the official rose of the National Breast Cancer Foundation. A portion of the sales will go back to the foundation. I could not find what percent would go to the National Breast Cancer Foundation. Pink Promise images show a hybrid tea rose with good form. The blooms have shades of light pink color. The fragrance is reported to be a strong fruity fragrance. The blooms are 5" with 30 petals. The plant height is medium with stems of

20". **Pink Promise** was hybridized by John Coiner and is an unknown seedling crossed with an unknown seedling. If you are searching for a pink rose and want to serve a cause, **Pink Promise** may be the rose for you.

Hotel California is a **Hybrid Tea** rose hybridized by the Orard family for France. This is a **bright yellow colored bloom**. **Hotel California** can be found at Blatt's Greenhouse and Lavalette Nursery. It is a bright yellow with a petal count of 30-35. This rose is reported to best in cooler temperatures so it will give you a great show this Spring and in the Fall. It is a cross of Solo Mio and Golden Glow.

Malibu This **Hybrid tea** is a blend of cream, golden, coral, and pink with a cream reverse. The bloom is 5" on 22" stems with dark green foliage. is simply breathtaking. The blooms are reported to have some exhibition form. The fragrance is a light spice perhaps similar to Gemini.

Rock & Roll is a **striped** burgundy and cream **grandiflora**. The rose was hybridized by Tom Carruth and is a cross of George Burns with New Zealand. The rose has a strong fruit scent. Each bloom will have a unique stripe bloom pattern. This rose has best color in cooler temperatures. It will need winter protection based on its parents.

Watercolors is a shrub rose that provides a changing color scheme of yellow, pink, cerise & ruby. There are 5-8 petals per bloom and the blooms tend to form in clusters. The bush has medium height with deep green leaves. The plant has a bushy growth pattern. Tom Carruth was the hybridizer. **Watercolors** has an interesting parentage which gives you some idea of the bloom and plant properties as it is a cross of (Santa Claus x Flower Carpet) x Betty Boop . **Watercolors** was introduced in 2008 and is available locally at our nurseries.

