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# ***THORNY BUSH***

*Newsletter of The Huntington Rose Society; Huntington, WV*

*Affiliated with the American Rose Society*

**Volume 28 Issue 2**

**March, 2009**

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## **Dates to Remember**

**March 17, 2009** The regular monthly meeting of the Huntington rose Society will be held Tuesday, March 18 at 7:30 pm at the Central Christian Church, 1202 Fifth Avenue. The program for the evening will be **"Kaleida-Rose: A Three-Part Harmony in Color"** presented by Dr. Beverly Delidow. Hospitality will also be provided by Beverly.

**April 4, 2009** The **Buckeye District Spring Meeting** will be a one day event on Saturday, April 4<sup>th</sup> at the Berwick Party Center, 3250 Refugee Road Columbus, Ohio. The cost is \$25 and includes continental breakfast and lunch. Send check payable to the Buckeye District to Barbara Zimmerman 430 N. Main Street, Englewood, Ohio 45322 Information: Tel: 937-836-4703 - e-mail: BJZROSE@aol.com

**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.

**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](mailto:rankin@marshall.edu) or Monica at [valentov@marshall.edu](mailto:valentov@marshall.edu).

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## **☛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.

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

## President's Message Beverly Delidow

March is a month of held breath: The roller-coaster weather (from 80 degrees to possible frost in 36 hours), the random kiss of sunshine, the trees on the cusp of bursting in to full bud, the daffodils already lifting their heads beside the road. You just never know what will come next. It's a kick, isn't it? In my garden it's time to clean up the debris winter dropped and take a peak at the roses, just starting to stretch a few little green fingers. This is a great month to take advantage of a good sunny day to pick up sticks and rake up those last stubborn leaves, and to imagine how all those roses will look in bloom.

Once they start blooming, roses put on such a beautiful show, whether it's two little minis or twenty grand old roses. The lovely colors in those petals are so familiar to us - but did you ever wonder how they got there? To hear a little bit about it, come to this month's meeting! I have been investigating the science behind the rose's art and I would love to share some of this fascinating information with you. This month's program is entitled: Kaleida-Rose: A Three-Part Harmony in Color. I will share with you some of what I learned about the basic ways roses produced colored petals, how time and sun can change them, and what we can do as gardeners to give our roses their best blush. The meeting will be 7:30, Tuesday March 17, at Central Christian Church. I look forward to seeing everyone there to celebrate roses on St. Patrick's Day.

For those of you who are impatient for blooms NOW - We still have calendars and they will be available at the meeting. Still just \$10 and it benefits the HRS!

Wishing you all a happy spring.

### Buckeye District PreSpring Meeting

April 4<sup>th</sup> will be the Buckeye Spring District Meeting in Columbus, Ohio. We are including this District's meeting announcement since some of the programs may be of interest to our members. Two ARS Vice-Presidential Candidates will each give two talks at the District. This is a great time to hear some great talks and learn more about these candidates. Jolene Adams and Bob Martin are both running for the ARS Vice President position and they are excellent speakers. Jolene will talk in the morning on striped roses and her program is entitled **Tigers in the Garden**. Her afternoon program is titled, **Romantic Ramblers**. Bob will speak in the morning on rose show class diversity and this talk is entitled **WHEN IN ROME**. His afternoon talk will be on new show roses and should be a peak at many new roses coming to market.

Roses by Whit Wells and Nor'East will also be available for sale. The list of roses can be found at [buckeyeroses.org](http://buckeyeroses.org).

### MARCH IN THE GARDEN Monica Valentovic

March is a month when we have significant temperature variations between 20's, 30's and low 70's all in a 24 hour period. In a period of 7 days we can go from sunny 60's to frost and the possibility of snow or rain. The **earliest** you can start pruning your roses is still a few weeks away. So what is a rosarian to do when the temperatures are in the 60's and it is sunny? Below are a few ideas to get your Spring in the garden a little jump start.

First, check all your pruners. Clean off the old residue and rust using a green pot scrubber or 200 grit sandpaper. Sharpen the edge of the pruners to give a clean sharp edge. This can be done with a special sharpener such as the one sold by Felcro or an inexpensive hand knife or scissor sharpener that runs less than \$10. Make sure all of the screws holding the blades are well oiled with WD40. Finally give the blades a good spray with WD40. You should clean you rose pruners as well as your more heavy duty clippers at this time. That way you have all your pruners in good working order when you are ready to prune a mini, hybrid tea or climber. Many people use a keyhole saw or a pruning saw sold by Rosemania to prune the bud union. Check the condition of your blade and replace any bent or dull blades.

Now go through your gloves and knee pads to see if they need replacement. If your gloves look like ours at the end of the season, they need to be replaced. We wear the fingertips off many of our gloves.

We all will use our shovels at some time in the next month. This is a good time to find your shovels and clean off all the dirt and mud from last Fall. Sharpen the edges with a file and give the shovel face a good spray with WD40. This is a good time to evaluate whether you need a new shovel handle and replace any broken or cracked handles.

Another item that is neglected over the winter, but very important in the Spring is your wheelbarrow. The wheelbarrow comes in handy for moving an assortment of items in the Spring. Check the air level in the tires, as they

so often seem to go flat in the winter months. This is also a good time to give the wheels a good spray with WD40 to keep the wheel moving smoothly.

Spraying roses is necessary to minimize disease and needs to be done as soon as the leaves start to come out. There is nothing more frustrating than to decide to spray and find out your sprayer is clogged or the battery needs to be replaced. March is the time to get your sprayer out and clean all components. It is a good idea to use a quart of vinegar in your sprayer to help dissolve the residue in the tank. Another method is to use 2 TBSP of baking soda per gallon of water. Swirl one of these solutions in the tank for about 5 minutes and then empty out the material. Wearing nitrile gloves, clean your spray head and lubricate any parts. The spray nozzle should be disassembled and cleaned with a Q-tip or thin wire to remove any residue. Rubbing alcohol can be used to remove stubborn residues. Also check any rubber tubing or hose components of your sprayer for cracks, leaks or signs of weakness. Rubber hose or tubing that is defective should be replaced to avoid leaks and loss of spray material.

If you have a back pack sprayer, this is a good time to dismantle the spray pump filter which is a common place for sprayers to clog. If you have a battery operated sprayer, recharge the battery in March. It is much better to charge the battery now than find out the battery doesn't work the morning you want to spray in April.

These are some simple chores, but they can be done in March and make your first trips to the garden easier.

## **Immunox and Immunox Plus** **Gary Rankin and Monica Valentovic**

Before too much longer it will be time to start applying fungicides to prevent the fungal diseases that can weaken many of the types of roses that we grow. Unless you are growing only certain *Knockout* varieties or rugosas, using fungicides is just part of the routine to keep the roses their healthiest.

There are many different fungicides on the market, but one that we evaluated for the American Rose Society's product Evaluation Committee was **Immunox** and **Immunox Plus**. These products were tested by rosarians from across the nation and have received endorsement by the ARS as a good product for the typical rosarian to use in their home garden. This article will provide a little better insight into Immunox and Immunox Plus and why these products won endorsement from the ARS.

General Description Immunox and Immunox Plus are manufactured by Spectracide. Both products contain a fungicide myclobutanil, which is the same systemic fungicide found in Eagle, Nova, Rally and Systhane. It can be used on a wide variety of ornamental shrubs (including roses), flowering plants and ornamental trees. Immunox is especially effective as a preventive agent against powdery mildew with additional action as a preventative against blackspot and rust on roses. The "Plus" is permethrin, an insecticide effective against many insects including aphids, bagworms, exposed thrips and various caterpillar species.

Our Experience – We have found Immunox and Immunox Plus to be very

effective against powdery mildew, both as a preventative and to kill a developing infection. The product has some effectiveness against blackspot, but is much more effective as a preventative against powdery mildew. There are better preventatives against blackspot that should be considered. The "Plus" product was especially active against aphids with protection lasting two weeks or more. We didn't try it on other insects per se, but didn't see any other insects on the roses when we used the "Plus" product.

Because Immunox is a systemic fungicide, it is effective during the rainy season when contact fungicides (e.g. manzate) may be washed off by the rain. However, like most systemic fungicides, resistance can become a problem, so it is a good idea to include Immunox as part of a rotation of three or more systemic fungicides (e.g. Banner Maxx, Compass) and combination with a contact fungicide (e.g. manzate, copper) to minimize the development of resistant fungal strains in your garden.

Formulations available – Immunox comes in pint containers and sells for about \$23 per pint. Mix as directed with water and apply at weekly intervals or use as part of a rotation program. A rotation with two to three weeks between the use of Immunox or other myclobutanil-based products is best. Immunox Plus also comes in pint containers and sells for about \$20-\$25 per pint. It should be mixed at the same rate as regular Immunox. Immunox Plus also comes in a 14 oz spray can which sells for about \$15-\$16 a can. Follow the directions and keep the can about 18" away from the rose bush when you spray. Otherwise the propellant in the

can will freeze the leaves (know this one from personal experience). The can works for very small gardens or spot treatments, but is too costly for larger gardens.

Recommendation – Two thumbs up from Gary and Monica.

### **Thank You to Our Sponsors!**

Each year we sell space in the Yearbook to help raise money for Huntington Rose Society sponsored activities. So far this year we have had several sponsors that have already renewed and we want to thank them!

Blatt's Greenhouse & Garden Center  
Design's by D.J.  
Hatcher's Greenhouse  
Huntington Dog & Cat Hospital  
Little Victories Animal Rescue Group  
Romeo's Pizza  
STAR USA Federal Credit Union

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

### **Host Needed for August Picnic!!!**

Each year, we have our summer picnic during the month of August. For the last two years Gary Rankin and Monica Valentovic have opened their home and garden for our picnic. However, it is a good idea to rotate the picnic around to other hosts and gardens within the Society. **If you are willing to serve as host/hostess for the Huntington Rose Society annual picnic, please let President Beverly Delidow (304-429-4211) know as soon as possible.** We would really enjoy spending the evening in your garden!

### **Rose Growing Tips**

Late March and early April is the time of the year that all the new roses start arriving at our home. Here are a few tips for handling those new roses:

1. Hydrate bare root roses – the new bare root roses that you get shipped to you have been in storage since the fall and may be dehydrated even through the roots are wrapped in wet paper strips. Place the roses in a bucket of water overnight (you can immerse most of the canes as well as roots) to hydrate.
2. Bleach to kill disease – Soaking the whole hydrated bare root rose in bleach water (1 cup bleach/5 gal water) for 1 min before planting will kill fungus that overwintered.
3. Snip the ends of roots – Snipping the root ends before potting or planting will stimulate new root growth.
4. Untangle roots – Potted roses, especially miniatures and minifloras, can become pot-bound before you get them. Make sure the roots are spread out before planting into the ground or into a larger pot.

**Rambling Rosarian: Thought for the Month:** Some grumble because roses have thorns. I'm thankful that thorns have roses. *American Rose*, Sept. 1998.

<p><b>DISCLAIMER:</b> 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.</p>
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