
THORNY BUSH

Newsletter of The Huntington Rose Society; Huntington, WV

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Dates to Remember

May 19, 2009 The regular monthly meeting of the Huntington rose Society will be held Tuesday, **May 19 at 7:30 P.M.** the Central Christian Church, 1202 Fifth Avenue. The program for the evening will be **Through the Judge's Eye** presented by John and Diana Fleek. The Fleek's are experienced horticultural judges and will describe what a rose judge is looking for in prize winning roses. Be sure to come join us for this informative and fun program and bring a friend.

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 for more details.

June 18 – 24, 2009 ARS Spring National Convention and Rose Show will be held at the 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 will take place at the 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

Greetings to all on a cool, spring night. It's damp, and quiet, except for the peepers

setting up a chorus from the creek nearby. My garden has been keeping a secret. It's been so wet for the last week I've hardly been out there. Tonight, after a late class, and walking the dogs, and dinner, I finally had to take a flashlight out, but I just had to look. Stealthy little things those minis, but they have heart bigger than thunder -- and every single one of them is covered with big, beautiful buds. Is there anything lovelier than promise of the very first roses of spring? I don't care if I have to stand in the dark in the rain to see them, they always light me up.

Now that the "kids" are gearing up to bloom, it's time to get out the tools and get into the garden as soon as the rain lets up. One thing I'm going to do this year is put out new labels for all my roses. I'm going to replace my little old plastic tabs that have worn out, or been knocked around with some new metal markers that will stand up to the elements, the occasional dog, and me digging around. Roses are great no matter what you call them, but if you want to show them, you have to know their real names!

To my universally biased eye, every rose is beautiful, but there's more to viewing roses than what the novice sees. Just in time for the rose shows starting up next month, we are very fortunate this month to have an exciting program presented by John and Diana Fleek on how rose show judges do their work. This will be a wonderful opportunity for all of our exhibitors to hear things from the perspective of two experienced judges, who are also dynamite exhibitors. It's also terrific for those of us who might be thinking about exhibiting, and all of us who just want to bring out the best in the roses we have, or add some new roses to our gardens. Please join us, Tuesday, May 17, at 7:30 pm for "Through a Judge's Eye".

Wishing you all warm days in the garden and big, happy rosebuds for the month ahead,

Beverly

Newer Miniature and Miniflora Roses **Gary O. Rankin**

Last month Monica discussed some of the newer large roses, and mentioned that I would be discussing newer miniature and miniflora roses. I'll stick to ones that we have bought and tried for a year, and then I'll mention some of the new ones that I have received and potted to try this year. While most of the roses we buy are for exhibition, the garden potential of each rose will be described as well. There were only a handful of miniature roses that I tried last year, but lots of minifloras, which reflects the newer roses that hybridizers are bringing to the market. In 2009, the number of new miniatures has increased somewhat, although minifloras are becoming the primary new roses for miniature/miniflora gardens. Many of the new roses that I got last year are from Whit Wells. You can purchase most of these roses from Two Sisters Nursery, directly from Mr. Wells or from Almost Heaven Roses.

Roses from 2008

Miniatures

Emma Grace This orange blend (seems more yellow, orange and red to me) was hybridized by Whit Wells. The bloom has an attractive color that you can see from a distance. Blooms have lots of petals, grew well in our garden, and the bush was winter hardy. The plants do tend to sprawl a little. For exhibitors it has also good form, and it should be a good garden rose as well.

My Hometown Another rose from Whit Wells, this one is a red blend and truly a miniature rose. The color of the blooms reminds me a little of *Kristin*, but the form is more like a hybrid tea. It didn't grow real well in a pot last summer, so it's now in the ground. It wintered fine. For exhibitors, the form of the bloom is good and has already won Queen.

White But Nice Yet another Whit Wells introduction, this rose is classified as a white, but seems to have a little pink every now and then. The rose grows well in a pot or in the ground. My bush stayed a little small but had some lovely white blooms with pink undertones. The bush stayed low in the pot, but hopefully, it will grow taller in the ground. A nice little rose for the garden with exhibition potential.

Minifloras

Abby's Angel A beautiful yellow bloom with red edges on long straight canes gives this rose a place in our garden. It is both a good garden and exhibition rose from Whit Wells. It doesn't hurt that our golden retriever is named *Abby* either.

Aberlady This dark yellow miniflora from Robbie Tucker at Rosemania grew well in the garden after a slow start and seemed to also make it through the winter without too much problem. It may not be an excellent exhibition rose as the blooms were only medium in size for a miniflora, but the form was good.

All American Girl This pink miniflora from Whit Wells (just recently registered) was one of my favorites from last year. It grew very well in the garden and the blooms had excellent form for the exhibitor. This one will please everybody.

Caledonia Classified as a light yellow (white in our yard most of the summer), this new rose from Robbie Tucker (Rosemania) was very vigorous during the year and wintered over quite well with little dieback (a miracle in our yard!). The blooms have good form for the exhibitor, so this one would be a good addition in our area for everyone.

First Choice This rose from Whit Wells reminds me of a small version of *Lynn Anderson*. The plants tended to sprawl and were a little slow to take hold, but I liked it so

much I ordered another one this year. Definitely an exhibitor's rose and may turn out to be a good garden rose as well. Winter was hard on it, so make sure that it gets protection.

Moonbeam I got this Dennis Bridges miniflora before Bridge's Roses closed (now available from Almost Heaven Roses). The bloom color was medium to hot pink with a light reverse and light fragrance has been detected by some folks. The plants grew well in the garden, but it took a while to bloom. It wintered well in our yard. The blooms also have good form for the exhibitor.

My Inspiration This Whit Wells rose has a beautiful white bloom with a pink edge. It grows like a horse, and the blooms have excellent form for the exhibitor. A great rose for everyone, but give it room to grow!

Power Point This rose is a medium red from Frank Benardella that grew reasonably well last year. It wasn't as tall as some of the other minifloras that we grow, so I would classify it as a medium height in its first year. The bloom is well formed and is an excellent exhibition rose. Looks like a good garden rose as well.

Shameless Another Whit Wells rose that has blooms with a red edge and lots of petals. A strong grower that is great for the garden and the exhibitor. Blooms have excellent form and many petals. Give it room to grow as it grows out and up!

Showstopper The apricot blend rose from Frank Benardella looks more pink than apricot in our garden. It grows extremely well and tends to sprawl. The blooms are a little flat, but they have an excellent spiral to a pinpoint center for the exhibitor. It did well over the winter and is growing strong this spring.

Top Contender A deep yellow sport of *Memphis Magic* that was hybridized by Whit Wells. It

was slow growing in our garden, but wintered well. The bloom form is good, so I would rate this one as more for the exhibitor than for the non-exhibitor.

Roses for 2009

I have received several new roses for 2009, The miniature roses that I ordered are *Eternal Flame* and *Renegade* from Rosemania (<http://www.rosemania.com/>), and *Hot Pink*, *Jennie Ann*, and *Maddie Kate* from Whit Wells. New minifloras that I ordered include *Hurricane* from Rosemania, *Good Ole Mountain Dew* and *Yellowbird* from Whit Wellls, *Shirley Raye*, *Grace Amazing*, *Angie Heatwole*, and *Memphis Belle* from Almost Heaven Roses (<http://www.almostheavenroses.com/>) and *Flawless*, *Double Take*, *Focal Point* and *Ambiance* from Nor'East Miniroses (<http://www.noreast-miniroses.com/>). You can go to the websites for these nurseries to see how they look. For Whit's roses try the Two Sisters Roses website (<http://www.twosistersroses.com/>). I'll let you know next year how they turn out.

Aphids

by [Dale Ericson](#)

Rose aphids are one of the most common pests, and one of the first, we see on our roses in the spring. Although I, like most rosarians, can speak about aphids from first-hand knowledge, some of the following information was gathered from extension service reports and other sources.

Description Aphids are tiny (1/8") green or pink insects with plump, pear-shaped bodies and two tubes, or cornicles, which project like exhaust pipes from their abdomens.

Life Cycle Aphids have three stages of life: egg, nymph and adult. They overwinter as eggs and in the spring, the newly hatched

insects are all female. They give birth continuously to live nymphs, as many as 10 per day. These nymphs can begin to produce in 7 to 10 days and populations can reach high numbers very quickly. In the fall when temperatures go down, some males are produced and they mate with females who lay eggs on plants for overwintering, and the cycle continues. Applying dormant oil in the late fall will help kill the overwintering eggs.



Damage Aphids cluster in dense colonies on new succulent growth and buds and can also be found on the undersides of young leaves. Damage occurs when the aphids suck the juices from the rose stems and buds. Unable to fully digest all the sugar in this plant sap, the aphid excretes the excess in a fluid which is called "honeydew," and this honeydew drops onto the leaves below.

A sooty mold fungus may develop on the honeydew, which causes the rose plants to appear black and dirty. The sooty molds in themselves are not harmful, but they prevent light getting to the leaves, which causes premature leaf fall and spoils the appearance of the plant. Ants feed on this sticky substance and often are present where there is an aphid infestation.

Although healthy plants can usually tolerate fairly high populations without much effect, aphids are extremely prolific and populations can quickly build up to damaging numbers during the growing season. Then flower quality and quantity are reduced and the buds are usually deformed and fail to open properly.

Control

Early detection is key to reducing aphid infestations. Weekly examination of plants will help to determine the need for control. Examine the bud area and undersides of new leaves for clusters of small aphids. If aphids are found, this is an indication that they are established on the plant and their numbers will increase rapidly. If there are just a few of these small colonies, they can be crushed by hand or removed by pruning.

Natural enemies of the aphid, such as the lacewings, lady beetles, adult wasps, insect larvae, earwigs, birds, etc., help reduce heavy populations. They may eat large numbers of aphids, but usually they do not appear in significant numbers until the aphids are already numerous. Therefore, these natural predators may not be enough to keep the aphids in control.

Before using insecticide sprays, try knocking the aphids off with a strong spray of water to get them in control (and this will also wash off the honeydew, if present). Most of the aphids will not be able to return to the plant. It is best to do this early in the day to allow plants to dry more rapidly and avoid conditions for fungal diseases.

As a last resort and as control measures are warranted, use insecticidal sprays -- Malathion, Orthene, Merit, etc. Reapplication is often needed. Always follow product label directions for safe use.

Reprinted from the American Rose Society website, www.ars.org.

Rose of the Month Jeanne LaJoie

By Mary Peterson

Whether you pronounce the name 'Jeanie La Joy' or can twist your tongue around the French pronunciation of 'Jay nay laj Waugh' it all comes down to a plucky little pink climbing mini hybridized by E.P.Sima in 1975. He used ('Casa Blanca' x 'Independence') x 'Midget' in breeding this little beauty and in 1977, the ARS recognized it with the coveted Award of Excellence for Miniatures (AOE award).

The 1" slightly fragrant, high-centered flowers with close to 40 petals are borne in clusters as well as singly and the plant can repeat throughout the growing season. The canes can gain a height of over 7' and in warmer areas of the country; I've seen it completely engulfing a garage. Here in Zone 5 of upstate New York, it happily climbs to well over 8' with very little winter protection and a moderate amount of support from a chain link fence.

The glossy dark foliage is disease resistant and it appears to tolerate slightly shady conditions as well.

Be sure to give this little climber plenty of room and she will reward you with tons of bloom.

Reprinted from the American Rose Society website, www.ars.org. This article was the Rose of the Month for April, 2009.

Yearbooks for 2009

The 2009 Huntington Rose Society Yearbooks will be available at the May meeting. This year Lynda Grass has added color to the advertisements which give them a great look. Thanks to Lynda for a job well done!

