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# ***THORNY BUSH***

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

*Affiliated with the American Rose Society*

**Volume 29 Issue 2**

**March, 2010**

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## **Dates to Remember**

**March 16, 2010** The regular monthly meeting of the Huntington Rose Society will be held on *Tuesday, March 16, 2010 starting at 7:30 pm* at the Central Christian Church, 1202 Fifth Avenue. The program for the evening will be "**Getting Ready for Spring**" presented by **John and Diana Fleek**. John and Diana will discuss what all of us need to do to get our rose beds ready for the growing season. Hospitality will be provided by Monica Valentovic.

**March 19-20, 2010** The Pre-spring meeting of the Colonial District will be held at the Quality Inn in Staunton, VA Friday and Saturday, March 19-20, 2010. Details about the meeting and a registration form are included inside.

**April 27 - May 2, 2010** The Spring National ARS Convention will be held in Shreveport, LA. For more details contact Mary Walker at 318-965-4153 or via e-mail at [marycookwalker@bellsouth.net](mailto:marycookwalker@bellsouth.net).

**September 5, 2010** The **Huntington Rose Society Rose Show** will be held on Sunday, September 5, 2010 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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## **President's Message** **Beverly Delidow**

Whew - Is everyone as glad as I am that it's March? After February kicked the stuffing out of us - even canceling our last HRS meeting! - I have been truly enjoying these first warm days. The mini's are, too - even though I try to tell them that frost may come again, these little girls are off and running. Edisto and Soroptomist International are in a race to see who can have the prettiest cane break - they'll be

leafing out before long. Carrot Top just sits quietly until she can show them all how it's done. The Black Jade twins are smaller and more circumspect, but I know they'll be tagging along soon. Any day now I can get out and spruce up the beds for all the fun April is sure to bring. Spring in the garden is a blessed time.

If your gardens took a bit of a beating from the long winter, you will definitely want to come to this month's meeting, Tuesday March 16, 7:30 pm, at Central Christian Church. John and Diana Fleek will present information on getting your roses ready for Spring. We may have a little rain for your roses, but no snow this time.

For those of you interested in even more education on roses - come to the District Prespring meeting next weekend. The organizing committee has put together a nice one-day program to jumpstart the new season. Information is on the District website:

<http://www.colonialdistrictroses.org> .

Looking forward to a fun meeting and wonderful year with all of you,

Beverly



#### **Mills Magic Mix Order Pick Up**

If you ordered Mills Magic Mix, Fish Emulsion or other products, they will be brought to the March meeting for pick up. If you will not be at the meeting please call Gary or Monica (697-0321) to arrange another method of getting your order. You can send an e-mail if you will not be at the March meeting to [Rankin@marshall.edu](mailto:Rankin@marshall.edu) or [Valentov@marshall.edu](mailto:Valentov@marshall.edu).

## **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, 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.

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 2 TBSP/ gallon of water of baking soda. 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. Be sure to check the hose connection to the spray gun or nozzle as often this weakens and is a site for leaks.

If you have a back pack sprayer, March 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 now and determine whether your sprayer still holds the charge. It is better to replace the battery in March than find out the battery doesn't work the morning you want to spray in April.

This month is an excellent time to clean your respirator. In order to minimize your exposure, you should use a paint/pesticide respirator. A respirator should be used if you are applying sulfur, copper, insecticidal soap or traditional agents such as Immunox, Banner Max or Pyrethrins. Remove the cartridges and wash the rubber components with a warm soap solution. I prefer Dawn dish detergent since it is an excellent cleaner that removes all residues and dirt. The cartridges on the respirator should be replaced **AT LEAST** once a season and the best time is at the beginning of the spray season.

Another winter neglected but very important item 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. Check to make sure your handles have not come loose. March is a good time to use WD40 on the wheel joints to make your job

of pushing soil around the yard a little easier.

Inspect, clean and sharpen all your pruners. Clean off the old residues and rust using a green pot scrubber or 200 grit sandpaper. Sharpen the edge of the pruners to give you a clean Spring cut. After cleaning and sharpening your blades, spray with WD40 to give a good lubrication. A keyhole saw is used by some people to prune the bud union. Check the condition of your blade and replace any bent or dull blades.

I use gloves when working in the yard and if you do, now is the time to check your glove supply. Make sure you have a good supply of gloves that fit and are comfortable for your hands. If your gloves have holes in the fingertips, then they might need to be replaced.

This month is an excellent time to take an inventory of your fertilizers, amendments and pesticides. Some stores are clearing their fertilizers this month and if you need any organic, liquid or solid fertilizers, now is the time to go to one of our sponsors and purchase your rose food.

Spring is a very busy time in the garden. It is a time to weed and renew your yard. In order to have the most fun, it is good to have all your tools in good order. These are some simple chores, but they can be done in March and make your first trips to the garden easier.

#### **Colonial District Pre-Spring Meeting**

The Colonial District Pre-Spring meeting will be held on Friday and Saturday, March 19-20, 2010 at the Quality Inn in

Staunton, VA. The program has something for everyone and it is not too late to decide to spend next weekend at the District meeting.

The general program speakers on Saturday will include Howard Jones (Spring Preparation), Ray Shipley (Gardens of the US), and Vernon Rickard (New Roses) followed by lunch. The afternoon session will include Gary Rankin and Monica Valentovic (Products for Growing Roses), Rick Brown (OGRs) and John Simonton (New Pesticides). A business meeting will close the afternoon.

The meeting will take place at the Quality Inn. You can call the Quality Inn directly (540-248-5111) to make room reservations (\$60/night). Be sure to mention that you will be attending the Colonial District ARS meeting. The hotel is easily accessible and is located at Exit 255 on I-81. For more information, you can contact District Director John Fleek (304-776-4048; fleek@suddenlink.net) or Charles Shaner (540-294-2875; lshaner@mindspring.com). Hope you can make it to Staunton!

### **2009 & 2010 AARS ROSE WINNERS**

If you are looking for some roses to add to your garden then perhaps you should consider the AARS roses. AARS winners display a special logo on their rose tag indicating AARS. How does a rose become a AARS rose selection winner? Roses are grown in 17 test gardens throughout the U.S. The closest test gardens to our region are in Crossville and Jackson, TN and Orangeburg, SC. AARS roses are evaluated for many criterion which include: disease resistance, fragrance, form of bud and

bloom, color of the bloom, repeat blooming, plant form, vigor, foliage, hardiness and novelty.

The 2010 AARS rose selection winner is a Floribunda called **Easy Does It**. Easy Does It is a rose to consider if you like ruffled blooms. The rose bloom color is classified as mango orange, peach pink & ripe apricot. The blooms have 25 petals. The foliage is glossy green leaves, The rose is a cross of Queen Charlotte x Della Balfour x Baby Love.

The 2009 AARS selection included: **Cinco de Mayo**, **Pink Promise** and **Carefree Spirit**. **Cinco de Mayo** is a Floribunda with a unique color. Cinco de Mayo is described as a smoky lavender with a rusty red-orange blend. If you like Hot Cocoa, you might want to try this rose.

The rose is a seedling of Julia Child. And Topsy Turvy. **Julia Child** has a continuous display of roses all summer and is fairly disease resistant. Cinco de Mayo is reported to have a tendency to bloom in clusters and is very prolific in blooming. **Cinco de Mayo** blooms have 25 petals with an apple fragrance. The bush has shiny leaves which should be disease resistant similar to **Julia Child**, The color is reported to get smokier with cool weather to give another special show.

**Pink Promise** is a Hybrid Tea with a purpose. A portion of every sale of Pink Promise will provide a donation to the National Breast Cancer Foundation. Pink Promise provides long stems with a white and pink bloom. Pink Promise has a nice fragrance and is pretty disease resistant.

The blooms have 25-30 petals. Pink Promise is a cross of unknown seedling x unknown seedling.

**Carefree Spirit** is a Shrub rose that can grow up to 5 feet in height. Carefree Spirit is a disease resistant rose with shiny green foliage. The blooms are a cherry red with white eye, with white reverse with deep cherry pink. The blooms change to a deep pink color in hot weather.

**Renew Your Membership in the  
Huntington Rose Society!!!**

It is time to renew your 2010 membership. It is \$8 for a single and \$12 for a family membership. Please send your dues to: Monica Valentovic, Treasurer, 109 Cedar Court, Lavalette, WV 25535.

The annual membership fee provides a discount on orders of Mills Magic Mix and 9 newsletters. The Society is also seeking additional donors that are signified as Queen, King, Princess and Prince levels. Donations at the Prince ( $\leq$  \$25); Princess (\$26-50), King (\$51-99) and Queen (\$100 or more) levels help to defray the yearly costs incurred by the Society. A membership application is included at the end of this newsletter. Remember that our rose society is a 501 C-3 non-profit organization and any donations are tax deductible.

**THANK YOU TO OUR 2010 YEARBOOK  
SPONSORS!!**

The society would like to thank all of the local businesses who advertise in our Yearbook and help support our Society. Although this has been a tough economic year for some of our sponsors, we have been fortunate to have their support! Please support these businesses who advertise with us. **We would like to thank the following sponsors who have already paid for their ads in the 2010 Yearbook:**

- Hatcher's Nursery
  - Lavalette Nursery
  - Little Victories Rescue Group
  - Romeo's Pizza
  - Spurlock's Flowers
  - Star USA Federal Credit Union
  - Tenampa Restaurants
  - Tri-State Eyecare
  - Union Missionary Baptist Church
- \*\*\*\*\*

<b>2010 Huntington Rose Society Officers</b>	
<b>President</b>	<b>Beverly Delidow</b>
304-429-4211	
<b>Vice President</b>	<b>Gary Rankin</b>
304-697-0321	
<b>Treasurer</b>	<b>Monica Valentovic</b>
304-697-0321	
<b>Assistant Treasurer</b>	<b>Bill Dolen</b>
740-886-6457	
<b>Recording Secretary</b>	<b>Rudy Wang</b>
304-736-0535	
<b>Corresponding Secretary</b>	<b>Beth White</b>
304-733-2004	

**2010 MEMBERSHIP IN THE HUNTINGTON ROSE SOCIETY**

**NAME(S)** \_\_\_\_\_

**ADDRESS** \_\_\_\_\_

**CITY** \_\_\_\_\_ **STATE** \_\_\_\_\_ **ZIPCODE** \_\_\_\_\_

**PHONE NUMBER** \_\_\_\_\_ **E-MAIL** \_\_\_\_\_

**Make checks payable to Huntington Rose Society and mail to:**

**CHECK ONE**

\_\_\_\_\_ **SINGLE \$8**

**Monica Valentovic, Treasurer  
109 Cedar Court, Lavalette, WV 25535.**

\_\_\_\_\_ **FAMILY \$12**

**Additional Contribution: \$** \_\_\_\_\_

**Levels - Prince (\$10-25); Princess (\$26-50); King (\$51-99); Queen (\$100 or more)**

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

**Gary Rankin & Monica Valentovic  
Thorny Bush Editors  
109 Cedar Court  
Lavalette, WV 25535**