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# ***THORNY BUSH***

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

*Affiliated with the American Rose Society*

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## **Dates to Remember**

**November 16, 2010** The annual rose banquet and installation of officers will be held on Tuesday, November 16, 2010 beginning at **6:30 P.M.** The banquet will take place at the Central Christian Church, 1202 Fifth Avenue. In addition to the pot luck dinner, new officers for 2011 will be installed. Further information is provided in this newsletter.

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## **President's Message**

### **Beverly Delidow**

Grateful greetings to you all - November snuck up and tapped me on the shoulder after that last glorious week of October. The days are getting cooler and the nights are leaning toward frost, but the minis seem determined to squeeze every bit of warm sunshine out of the air and present it to me in their pretty faces. Carrot Top makes up in heart what it may lack in

hybrid-tea form. It popped a couple fully opened blooms and held them for more than a week before those sweet petals started to fade - what a trooper!

It is a time of year for gratitude. I am grateful for my roses and for the company of like-minded, good-hearted people. It has been my privilege to serve as your president this year, I am grateful for your trust in me and for the part each of you plays in supporting our society. I am grateful to have served with my fellow officers, especially Gary and Monica, who work tirelessly on our behalf. I am grateful for fellowship and the camaraderie of our meetings and all the good information we share. I've learned so much from all of you. It is a sweet thing to be among friends from the ground up.

I hope you will all join us for our annual banquet celebration on November 16<sup>th</sup>. As always, we will elect new officers and we will have a slide presentation of photos taken at the fall Rose Show. The society will provide the meat and drinks, members are asked to bring a covered dish to share. Bring your warm, wonderful spirits and bring a friend! Looking forward to seeing everyone there.

Yours, in the spirit of the rose,  
Beverly

## Huntington Rose Society Calendars 2011! Beverly Delidow

The Huntington Rose Society 2011 Calendars have been ordered and are on their way. The mock up was shown at the October meeting. It will be printed by the same company as last year, on heavy-weight cardstock, in full color and ring-bound, with a hole punched for convenient display. We will have number available at the banquet for \$12.50. For an additional \$2, we will mail them to you. They are also available online for \$14.49, plus shipping, at this web address: <http://snipurl.com/1eeue9>. You can also see a full preview on the website. Proceeds benefit the society, so tell all your friends and neighbors to check it out!

### November Banquet

The annual Huntington Rose Society banquet will begin at 6:30 PM, November 16, 2010 at the Fellowship Hall 1202 Fifth AVE, Central Christian Church, Huntington, WV. As in the past, this will be a potluck dinner. The Society will provide **turkey, cups, plates, silverware, and coffee**. This is a great time to bring your favorite recipe to share with your fellow rose growers, and we all look forward to some of our rose society's members' favorite dishes. We hope to taste your favorite recipes for salads, breads, cranberries, broccoli, potatoes, corn, green beans, sweet potatoes/yams, squash and any other side dishes. We also anticipate the arrival of all kinds of goodies in the form of pies, cheesecakes and cakes. Are you getting hungry reading this article?

Following the dinner, President Delidow will open the floor for additional nominations for officers, followed by the election of

officers for 2011. The officers will then be installed.

We hope you can plan to attend the banquet. It is the last time we meet as a group in 2011. We can guarantee lots of good food, some excellent door prizes and the fellowship of great people that are interested in having a good time. Hope you can make it!

### NOMINATING COMMITTEE

#### 2011 Slate of Officers

The committee has announced a slate of officers for 2011. The names of the candidates will be read and voted upon at the November 17<sup>th</sup> banquet. The elected officers will then be installed at the Banquet. Don't miss this important activity of the Huntington Rose Society!!!

The candidates are:

President- Bill Dolen

Vice President- Monica Valentovic

Treasurer - Gary Rankin

Assistant Treasurer- Rudy Wang

Recording Secretary- Beverly Delidow

Corresponding Secretary- Cheryl Johnson

**DISCLAIMER:** The Editors 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.

### Fall and Soil

#### Gary Rankin and Monica Valentovic

Fall is a good time to take a soil sample for a soil test and to check soil pH in your rose garden. **Roses need an ideal soil pH of 6.5 for maximum nutrient availability.**

You should remove soil near the drip line of the roses for your testing. Remove all mulch and take a sample approximately 3-5 inches below the surface. Dry the soil and test the pH. You can use pH strips or any of a number of home soil test kits or meters that measure soil pH. You can also send a soil sample to the WV extension service for testing. The only cost is the postage.

If your pH is below 5.5 you need to correct it by addition of lime at the rate of 2 cups/bush to raise the pH one unit (from 5.5 to 6.5). If your soil pH is 7.0 or higher, you need to add 1 cup/bush of flowers of sulfur to lower the pH by one unit. *Lime and sulfur need to be worked into the soil and not just added to the tops of the rose bed.* Adjustment of soil pH is done in the fall because it takes 2-3 months for the pH to adjust after addition of lime or sulfur. Our recommendation for lime would be dolomitic pelletized lime as it is easy to handle.

☞ **Thank you to our 2010 & 2011 Rose Patrons** ☞

The Society would like to express a deep and sincere **thank you** to our members who have become Rose Patrons of our Society. These individuals have donated at the following levels in order to help defray the costs of the rose show and education materials. Donations indicate the levels of Prince (\$1-24); Princess (\$25-49), King (\$50-99) and Queen (\$100 or more). A HEARTY THANK YOU goes to the following individuals:

**2010 Rose Patrons**

**Queen Level**

Gary Rankin and Monica Valentovic  
Truman Watts

**King Level**

Gil and Betsy Ratcliff

**Princess Level**

Bill and Oleta Dolen  
John and Diana Fleek  
Cheryl and Mike Johnson  
Phyllis McFadden  
Rudy and Monica Wang

**Prince Level**

Ron & Kathryn Davidson  
Kitty Hage  
Dick Hanlon  
Bob Hogsett  
Bill & Linda Owens  
John David Powell  
Jim & Barbara Preston  
Rudy Wang  
Beth White

**2011 Rose Patrons**

Our Society would like to acknowledge some of our members who have already donated for 2011 along with renewing their membership!

**Queen Level**

Gary Rankin and Monica Valentovic  
Truman Watts (Mega Queen)

**Prince Level**

John & Diana Fleek

**THANK YOU!!!!**

☆☆☆☆☆

**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 for our 2010 Yearbook:**

**B&E Menswear  
Blatt's Greenhouse  
Designs by DJ  
Hatcher's Greenhouse  
Hearth and Patio  
Lavalette Nursery  
Little Victories Rescue Group  
Romeo's Pizza  
Spurlock's Flowers  
Star USA Federal Credit Union  
South Tenampa  
Southern States  
Tri-State Eyecare  
Union Missionary Baptist Church**

**☞ 2011 ROSE SOCIETY DUES ☜**

It is time to renew your membership for 2011. 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. Dues can also be paid at the annual banquet on November 17<sup>th</sup>.

The Society is also 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 (\$1-25); 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.

**2010 Horizon Roses**

The 2010 Horizon Roses is now available to order. This yearly publication describes all the new roses that are "on the horizon" for rosarians to add to their gardens. Rose growers from all over the country rate the new roses for exhibition and often comment on the roses' bloom form, disease resistance and winter hardiness. Horizon Roses can be ordered for \$10 by making your checks payable to Johnny Premeaux. The checks should be sent to Johnny Premeaux 700 Westbury Orange, Texas 77630.

**Name that Rose!**

**Gary O. Rankin**

As I get older, it seems like my memory is not as good as it was 20 years ago. When I stroll through the garden, sometimes I try to remember the names of the roses simply by their appearance and growth habits. While I usually do well, occasionally I mix up new similar looking roses, especially all those white with red edge ones or solid red blooms. So, I'm glad that I put out a named plant marker in front of each rose when I plant them in the garden. It also helps when we have visitors to the rose garden, as the names are clearly visible for all to see.

There are many ways that you can "mark" the name of your rose. When you purchase a rose, they usually have a tag on a wire, a picture and/or name on a plastic or coated card, or just a plastic strip with the name penned on it. While these approaches are fine for the merchant, they may not last too long in the rose bed. Writing often weathers off the plastic strip, cards may eventually blow away and the wire for metal tags usually breaks and deposits the metal tag somewhere in the mulch. So, I

always view them as temporary and use more permanent markers.

Homemade markers These markers are best made from metal or plastic as wood tend to weather in the sun and rain fairly quickly. One low cost plant marker can be made from the metal or plastic slats in old (or new) white window mini-blinds. Simply cut the blind slats into 6-8" sections (or whatever size fits your need), cut a point on one end to go into the ground, and write the name of the rose along the portion above ground. Standard mini-blinds have about 90-100 slats, so one 36" wide mini-blind can yield about 400 plant markers! Buying the blinds on sale at a discount store can make these easy-to-make markers a real bargain.

I have also seen rose name markers made from white plastic knives with the names written (permanent ink markers; paint pens, marking pencils, China pencils, etc.) on the handles. The cutting portion is stuck in the ground and the name is clearly visible. The problem with these markers is that the plastic eventually weathers and can become brittle in the garden and break off. However, they can last for a couple of years or more in the garden and are relatively inexpensive. In potted roses, these markers can last much longer.

Premade Garden Markers If you want a more professional plant maker to identify your roses, there are many different types available. Local nurseries often sell both plastic and metal (zinc, stainless steel, etc.) type markers. They are designed for you to write the name of the rose and any other information that you wish directly on the flat surface. Some packages include a

permanent ink marker or grease pencil for writing on the marker, while others only supply the markers.

You can also order plant markers from garden supply companies (e.g. A.M. Leonard), on-line (e.g. Rosemania) or through one of the vendors listed in the American Rose Society magazine. A recent issue of the American Rose has advertisements for four different companies that sell different types of rose markers. (1) Kincaid Gardens sells 100% stainless steel plant markers that have a removable plate that is bent forward so the name plate won't fall off. ([www.KincaidGardens.com](http://www.KincaidGardens.com)). (2) AAA Quality Engravers sells computer-engraved plant labels for roses and other plants. Their label has the rose name already engraved on the label and the label is placed on a variety of metal garden stakes for placement in the ground. [bestsign@bellsouth.net](mailto:bestsign@bellsouth.net). (3) Harlane Co., LLC sells laser engraved plastic rose name labels that fit interchangeably on special 10" plastic garden stakes. Prices vary depending on the type of label ordered ([www.harlane.com](http://www.harlane.com)). (4) Paw Paw Everlast Label Company sells 10 different types of metal garden labels, with or without metal supports. ([www.EverlastLabel.com](http://www.EverlastLabel.com)).

After experimenting with several different types of markers, I settled on the cap style labels from the Paw Paw Company (100 sell for \$32.75). Since names written on labels with marking pencils and permanent ink pens soon fade, I use a Brother P-touch label maker with 12 mm (1/2") clear or white laminated tape to write the names and transfer the tape to the labels to name that rose!

**2011 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  
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Lavalette, WV 25535**