
THORNY BUSH

Newsletter of The Huntington Rose Society; Huntington, WV

Affiliated with the American Rose Society

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Dates to Remember

April 19, 2011 The regular monthly meeting of the Huntington Rose Society will be held on **Tuesday, April 19, 2011** starting at 7:30 pm at the Central Christian Church, 1202 Fifth Avenue. Monica Valentovic and Gary Rankin will present a program on "**New Rose Varieties to Fit Your Space and Budget**". Hospitality will be provided by Diana Fleek.

June 2-6, 2011 The Spring National ARS Conference will be held in Winston-Salem, NC. For more details contact Steve Lawson at 318-965-4153 or e-mail at slawson001@triad.rr.com.

June 11, 2011 **Huntington Rose Society Rose Show** will be held on Saturday, June 11, 2011 at the Central Christian Church, Huntington, WV. Set up will be held on Friday evening. 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.

President's Message Bill Dolen

Hi Everyone,

This past month has flown by and I have been potting my new roses. I received ten big roses and eight new minis and

they are looking good so far. I have been doing this for several years with my large roses. It seems to me that it is much easier for them break in the garage. If they don't break in a few days, I place kitchen bags over them. When I do, they usually break in just a few more days.

I will not be at the meeting this month, as I have a chance to go fishing with my son Mike and his two sons. I am really looking forward to being with the boys! See you next month!

IN THIS ISSUE....

President's Message	1
Huntington Rose Society website	1-2
Colonial District meeting	2
Weeks Rose Donation	2-3
Mills Magic Mix Order info	3
FreezePruf	3
Rose Clerks	4
News about Our Members	4-5
ARS National Convention	5
Membership renewal info	5-6

Huntington Rose Society Website

Thanks to Bill Owens, the Huntington Rose Society now has a website! To check out the site go to: www.huntingtonrosesociety.com. We are all appreciative to Bill for getting this project underway. Bill has asked that anyone willing to be the webmaster for this site to please contact him or

President Bill Dolen about your interest in keeping our new website updated.

**Colonial District Pre-Spring Meeting
Report
Gary Rankin**

The 2011 Colonial District Pre-Spring Meeting was held on March 25-26, 2011 in Staunton, Virginia at the Christ Lutheran Church. About 50 rosarians attended the two day meeting and included Huntington Rose Society Members John and Diana Fleek, Steve Grass, Donna Smoot, Beverly Delidow, Monica Valentovic and Gary Rankin. The meeting began Friday evening with a social hour followed by an organ concert performed by Jonathan Greer, a local organist. Following the concert, Diana Fleek presented "Sandy's Picks of New Varieties". These are the new roses that top exhibitor Sandy Lundberg thinks will be up and coming exhibition roses.

On Saturday morning, the meeting started with Colonial District Director John Fleek explaining the goals of the "100 Grand Campaign" being conducted by the American Rose Society. This campaign is trying to raise \$100,000 to help offset the expenses that the ARS expects to have this year that are in excess of the revenues they already have in their budget for this year. The Colonial District has donated \$1,000 to this effort, and the District is trying to raise ~\$4,000 more from District activities, societies and members. John's presentation was followed by Diana Klassy who gave tips to everyone about how she grows great exhibition roses and wins trophies at rose shows with a small rose garden.

After the morning break, the attendees split into two groups for the rest of the morning and for the afternoon sessions: one group attending Consulting Rosarian (CR) recertification programs and the other group attending alternate programs. The group attending the CR programs heard talks on chemicals (Debbie Brown), raised beds (Charles Shaner), genetics and roses (Monica Valentovic and Gary Rankin) and soil analysis (Ray Shipley). The alternate programs included presentations on soils and fertilizers (David Maxwell) and arrangements (Janice Sellers). John Fleek also led a roundtable discussion of rose growing issues and a show and tell of interesting rose products.

Saturday evening was highlighted by the banquet catered by Barbara Shaner, presentation of the 2010 Outstanding Consulting Rosarian Award to Diana Klassy, recognition of the 2010 Silver Honor Medal recipient Meredith Yeago, and presentation of an ARS Presidential Citation to Clif Jeter for his many years as ARS Treasurer. John Smith then talked about how he gets ready for a rose show and how he exhibits roses. Given John and Cherylynn's credentials as one of the top exhibiting couples in our District, there were great tips for everyone! The evening finished with the announcement of silent auction winners and the raffle.

This was a very enjoyable and educational meeting that every one should think about attending next spring!

**Weeks Roses Donation helps Raise
Funds for the Colonial District**

In an effort to help the Colonial District raise funds, Monica Valentovic asked

Weeks Roses to donate a few roses for the District to sell. Weeks was very generous and sent us 20 roses to sell. Members of the Huntington Rose Society bought 13 roses and raised \$165 which has been forwarded to Colonial District Treasurer George Wilson. The remaining roses were bought by members of the Charleston Rose Society and those attending the Colonial District Pre-Spring Meeting. Thanks to Weeks for their support!!!

**Mills Magic Mix and Other Products
Have Arrived
Gary Rankin**

Those of you who ordered Mills Magic Mix or other rose growing products as part of the order to Beaty Fertilizer Co. can pick up your order at the April 19 Huntington Rose Society meeting. Monica and I picked up the order from John Fleek last week. I have already paid John for our order, so checks for your order should be made out to: Gary Rankin. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Monica or me at 304-697-0321.

FreezePruf

Gary Rankin and Monica Valentovic

As Co-Chairs of the American Rose Society's Product Endorsement Committee, we get to evaluate a number of new products for growing good roses. One of the products that our committee evaluated was a product produced by the Liquid Fence Co. called FreezePruf. The company indicates that this product will improve natural cold tolerance by up to 9.4°F. This biodegradable product is composed of glycerin and polyethylene glycol which are absorbed into the rose leaves and

canes and act like additional "anti-freeze". The principle is the same as adding alcohol and/or ethylene glycol to the radiator of your car or to your windshield washer fluid to keep them from freezing in the cold. Protection may last up to six weeks after application, but for best results it is recommended that FreezePruf be reapplied as newer growth appears. The product should also be applied at least eight hours before an anticipated frost if being used for the first time.

We tested this product in the fall after some evaluators found the product worked well and others didn't see much effect. In our tests, we found that there was a more protective effect in early fall than in late fall/early winter and concluded that once the roses begin to make their own "antifreeze" as they prepare for winter, the product is less effective. We also talked to a couple of the evaluators who were very positive about the product and found that they used it in the spring to protect against spring frost damage. So, we will be using this product again this spring to try and prevent the frost damage that we get in our rose garden each spring. Interestingly, the product was effective in the fall in protecting annual flowering plants that don't make their own antifreeze such as lantana.

FreezePruf can be purchased locally and comes in a 32 ounce hand spray bottle that is much handier to use than the initial gallon container and pull out flexible sprayer that we were provided to test.

We think that this may be a product you would want to try this spring if you have problems with spring frosts damaging your roses.

ROSE SHOW CLERKS NEEDED!

Our Rose show is fast approaching. Our rose show will be on Saturday, June 11 at the Central Christian Church, 1202 5th AVE in Huntington. Being a clerk is easy as all you have to do is bring the winners to the trophy table, staple blue, red, yellow or white ribbons on the roses as indicated by the judges. We need 8 clerks for the show. There are 4 teams of judges and we have 2 clerks per team of judges. This is a great opportunity to see the judges in action. You get to see why a certain rose is thought to be better than another and can help you grow better roses. If you are interested in being a clerk, please call me or Gary at 304-697-0321.

EARL MASSIE IN THE PAPERS!

We have many members with multiple talents. Earl Massie is an accomplished artist and photographer. Once again Earl Massie has had 2 photos in the Herald-Dispatch. They were beautiful Spring pictures of nature. I hope you got to see them. If you see Earl let him know how good they were!

Congratulations again, Earl!

CHARLES MOORE

Charles Moore, a long time member of our society continues to recover from a kidney transplantation. He has had some complications but is getting better after a difficult battle with infections. Charles always is a friendly person at meetings when he was able to attend. He also had a hidden talent of painting and has brought some of his artwork for us to enjoy one time at our meeting. I am sure Charles would enjoy a card from our members.

MOLLY CLINGENPEEL

On April 7th, Molly Clingenpeel suffered a stroke. She is currently at Charleston Area General Hospital. Molly is making good progress and has already moved from the 4th floor to the 2nd floor while she continues to recover. She is undergoing physical therapy 5 days a week. Hopefully she will be home after Easter! If you would like to visit her, Saturday and Sunday are the best days. Visitation on the weekends is from 8:30 AM- 8:30 PM. She can have visitors during the week after 4:30 until 8:30 PM due to her Physical Therapy sessions. If you can't visit Molly maybe you can send her a card. We will have a card for all to sign at the April meeting. We wish Molly a speedy recovery. Susan has been with Molly for since the 8th and just recently returned to Wisconsin. Keep the entire family in your prayers as Molly recovers from her stroke.

CURTIS LAWSON

When Gary and I first joined the Huntington and Charleston Roses Societies there was an energetic couple from Charleston by the name of Elene (Eunice Elene) and Curtis Lawson. Elene was always friendly and a full of energy. They grew some beautiful roses, especially old garden rose varieties. Curtis was the supporting spouse and helped carry Elene's supplies and multitudes of roses. Curtis Lawson died on Tuesday, April 12, 2011, at his home after an extended illness. Curtis was 86 years old. Elene preceded him in death many years ago. The family will have visitation between 6-8 PM on Friday evening at the funeral home. Funeral services will be 11 AM,

Saturday, April 16, at Bartlett-Burdette-Cox Funeral Home, Charleston. Burial services will follow in Cunningham Memorial Park, St. Albans. We will have a card to sign at the April meeting to send to Curtis' family.

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.

National ARS Rose Convention Winston Salem, NC June 2-6, 2011

This years show has something for everyone. There will be a photography rose show competition. The rules and classifications can be found at the following link:

http://www.wsr.org/uploads/Photography_Show_Schedule_and_Rules.pdf

Submissions must be made by May 2nd. If you are interested in submitting photographs, you need to have this completed in the next few weeks.

The rose show and convention will run from June 2-6th at the Embassy Suites in Winston-Salem, NC. The show is on Saturday and includes many horticulture and arrangement categories. There is an extensive program of speakers talking about photography, organic pest control as well as growing and exhibiting roses. The show concludes on Monday with a tour of the Biltmore Estates and this should be an excellent venue. More information can be found at the ARS.org website and click on national rose conventions.

Renew Your Membership in the Huntington Rose Society!!!

It is time to renew your 2011 membership. It is \$8 for a single and \$12 for a family membership. Please send your dues to: Gary Rankin, Treasurer, 109 Cedar Court, Lavalette, WV 25535. Anyone who is not a member of the American Rose Society will also get a 4 month trial membership in the ARS FREE.

The annual membership fee provides a discount on orders of Mills Magic Mix and 9 newsletters. The newsletter is filled with seasonal information to get the maximum enjoyment out of your roses. The discount on Mills Magic Mix is almost 50% off the list price. This means you almost save the cost of a family membership with the purchase of just one bag. **So please consider renewing your membership today!!**

2 TIPS FOR CLEANING ROSE PRUNER BLADES Monica & Gary

You can remove the rust and buildup on your blades by rubbing them with a green pot scrubber. This will remove rust and plant juices. We have had the best luck with the Scotch Brite pot scrubbers that come in a package of 3-6. In the Spring we all want to minimize the transmission of diseases between roses while pruning. We routinely spray our blades with a Lysol solution. It is the old fashion Lysol disinfectant at the antiviral, antibacterial dose. We add 1 capful in an 8 ounce spray bottle. The Lysol does not rust your blades like bleach tends to do.

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**

**Gary Rankin, 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.

**The Thorny Bush
Gary and Monica Rankin, Editors
109 Cedar Court
Lavalette, WV 25535**