
THORNY BUSH

Newsletter of The Huntington Rose Society; Huntington, WV

Affiliated with the American Rose Society

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Dates to Remember

July 19, 2011 The regular monthly meeting of the Huntington Rose Society will be held at **7:30 pm on Tuesday, July 19** at the home of Bill and Oleta Dolen. The title of the program will be *“Things Working in My Garden”* presented by our President Bill Dolen. Bill and Oleta will also provide the hospitality for the meeting. For more information about the meeting and directions to the Dolen’s home, please see the article inside this newsletter.

August 20, 2011 Annual Picnic The annual Huntington Rose Society picnic will be held on **Saturday evening, August 20** at the home of Gary Rankin and Monica Valentovic starting at 6:30 pm. Details can be found inside this issue.

September 16-18, 2011 Colonial District Fall Rose Show and Convention sponsored by the Charleston Rose Society. The meeting and rose show will be held at the Charleston House in Charleston, WV. For more information contact: John Fleek, 304-776-4048, fleek@suddenlink.net.

October 13-16, 2011 National Fall Rose Show and Convention sponsored by the Tinsletown Rose Society from Los Angeles California. The convention and show will be held at the Universal Hilton Hotel, Universal City, CA. For more information contact: Marcia Sanchez-Walsh at losangelestinseltownrs@gmail.com.

President’s Message **Bill Dolen**

Time seems to pass Very quickly for me these days. I have tried to work on my rose beds and sometimes it seems to just overwhelm me . One day last week Truman came by to visit and we started talking about my roses. I told him that

the rose meeting was going to be here next week he told me to try to get some help and he would come over an help guide them. I called two young men who do yard work, I thought they would do alright but weeding roses was a lot harder than they thought.

Truman said we could get it done. He doesn't walk very well but no one will outwork him. Truman is just amazing and a very good friend!

All ten beds will be finished on Friday. All the beds have been fertilized and watered well. The next step is spraying.. All of this has been accomplished in some of the hottest days this year.

Except for the rain last Monday it has gotten very dry. Be sure to start watering your roses really well as roses need an inch of water a week. The high temperatures have been in the 90’s with clear skies and what rain we have evaporates quickly.

I should have started first and let everyone know that Gary Rankin’s father passed away this month. Our hearts go out to Gary and Monica in their loss. I had the pleasure of meeting LeRoy Rankin a few years ago.

I hope everyone’s roses are doing great, but remember to keep up your spray programs and watering through July and August for the District rose show this fall.

⇒REMINDER⇐

This issue of the *Thorny Bush* will be for the months of July and August. There will be **no newsletter in August**. Save this newsletter for directions to the August picnic.

In This Issue

President’s Message..... 1
Thanks from Gary Rankin... 2
Directions to July Meeting... .2
July in the Garden.....2-3
Annual HRS Picnic.....3-4
Aren’t All Roses Shrubs?.....4-6

Thanks for Member Support
Gary Rankin

I would like to thank everyone in the society for their flowers, cards, thoughts, and prayers during the recent passing of my father, LeRoy Rankin. Some of you had the opportunity to meet my parents during their visits from Arkansas to West Virginia over the years, and my father always spoke highly of those rosarians he had met. Words can’t express how much your thoughtfulness has meant to our family, but I would like still like to thank everyone for your kindness.

July Meeting
Directions to the home of Bill and Oleta Dolen

Bill and Oleta Dolen have graciously invited the society members and guests to come to their home for the July 19th meeting. Bill has been working hard on his garden and wants to share with everyone what he has going on in their rose garden. We hope to see you there and bring a friend!

Directions to the Dolen’s home are:

From Huntington, take the 31st Street Bridge (the suspension bridge) into Ohio. Once you enter Ohio you will be on Rtes. 7 and 775. Proceed on Rtes 7 and 775 for about 1 mile and turn left to stay on Rt. 775. Go ~4 miles and you will see a two-story building with a large blue strip around it on your left and a small green sign on you right that says "Union T 339". Turn right at the sign. The Dolen's home is the first house on the left

JULY IN THE GARDEN
Monica Valentovic

July is one of the hottest months of the rose growing season. We have been experiencing some interesting temperature fluctuations with a

few days having a high in the low 80s and the next week the high temperature is in the upper 80’s and 90’s. We are also experiencing a number of rain storms, with the rain being good for the roses but a great breeding ground for fungal outbreaks. This summer we have a rather unusual experience of early morning fog several times at our home. Fog in the morning is more common in mountainous regions of WV and North Carolina but this summer it is in the Tri-State!!

The weather conditions of plentiful rain give us relief from watering the roses. However, the occasional late afternoon and evening downpours make it easier for fungal spore growth since the rose leaves do not have time to dry and remain wet for 12 hours or longer. It is very important this summer to **KEEP UP YOUR FUNGICIDE SPRAY PROGRAM.** Although it is hard to do, spray your roses every 7-10 days with a fungicide.

If you do have an outbreak of blackspot, then you need to spray three times at three day intervals with Manzate. You can use copper as a substitute for Manzate, but copper can damage the foliage when temperatures are in the 90’s. Another problem with this moist weather can be powdery mildew. This can be treated by spot spraying with a mixture of 1 TBSP/gallon of baking soda in water. I also add one TBSP/gallon of cooking oil and one TBSP/gallon of liquid dishwashing detergent (Dawn lemon or citrus scent is my favorite) to the baking soda. The oil will smother fungal spores and the detergent acts as a spreading agent.

The wet weather can be diminishing your rose growth if there is not proper drainage around the roses. If the roses do not have proper drainage, then you may experience yellowing of leaves and stunted growth. You may need to improve drainage or change the general flow of water runoff to reduce the amount of moisture in your rose beds.

In order to minimize weed growth and keep your rose bed cool, consider using a mulch layer of 1-3 inches around your rosebushes. Any type of

mulch such as: oak, cypress, pine bark or hardwood mulch will do the job. Be careful if using freshly shredded trees as mulch. The mulch should be checked to make sure that it is free of disease, insects and does not contain high levels of tannin. Some rose growers add a handful of fertilizer, such as 10-10-10, to the soil prior to applying their mulch, as the breakdown of mulch may take some nitrogen from the soil. Another option for mulch is to use cut alfalfa which slowly feeds the plant. Southern States carries alfalfa in blocks (for horses) which can be added to the rose beds. We have also made alfalfa tea using alfalfa meal, blocks or cubes.

Late June, July and August are the times of the year that have optimal conditions for a spider mites infestation. Spider mites can replicate at an incredible rate when temperatures rise above 85 degrees. A symptom of spider mites is yellowing of the leaves. Normally, the undersides of the leaves are clean, but if spider mites are present, then the underside of the leaves have a salt and pepper residue. Control of spider mites can be achieved by physical and chemical methods. Physical control would include spraying the undersides of the leaves with a strong spray of water. A strong water spray can be gotten by using an adjustable water spray head at the cone or semi-jet setting. The underside of the leaves must be rinsed three times at three day intervals. The reason for rinsing the spider mites off the rosebush every three days is to prevent them from reproducing, which occurs approximately every three days in warm temperatures.

If you choose to use a chemical spray method, then you need to apply a miticide. Spider mites are not insects but are arachnoids, and therefore are more difficult to kill than insects. Miticides include Avid and Floramite. Insecticides that have a good spectrum of activity against spider mites are Cygon, pyrethrin/rotenone, and cyfluthrin + imidacloprid (e.g. Bayer Rose and Flower Insect Killer). Some of these products (Avid, pyrethrin/rotenone) are recommended at the designated doses sprayed every three days for a period of nine days in order to eradicate spider mites. Integrated pest management

techniques would include the use of ultrafine oil and cinnamite as miticides.

You can still feed your roses can in the hot months of July. We make sure the plants are well hydrated prior to applying any liquid fertilizer. July is also a good time to apply a second feeding of organic fertilizer such as Mills Magic Mix or alfalfa. For the very brave, alfalfa can be applied as a tea. We use 8-10 cups alfalfa meal placed in panty hose to ~30 gallons of water. The alfalfa is allowed to steep for 3-4 days and then applied at a rate of 1 gallon/large bush and 0.5 gallon/miniature or miniflora rose. Alfalfa tea provides a number of nutrients to the bush along with an alcohol, triaconitol which is a growth stimulant. After applying the alfalfa tea, water the plants within 24 hrs to help distribute the organic goodies.

Annual Huntington Rose Society Picnic Gary Rankin

The annual potluck picnic for the Rose Society will be held at the home of Gary Rankin and Monica Valentovic on **Saturday, August 20th starting at 6:30 PM.** Directions to our home are given at the end of this article. As in years past, the Society will provide meat, pop, plates, napkins and eating utensils. Everyone is asked to bring a covered dish (vegetable, salad or dessert) to add to the meal.

Everyone is invited to attend the picnic and we hope you can bring a friend, neighbor, relative or any other guest. We would especially like to encourage our new members to come and enjoy a relaxing evening among other rose enthusiasts and share the beauty of our home and rose garden. This picnic is an especially great way for new members to interact with other members of the Society and to see someone else's garden. The picnic is always an enjoyable evening filled with good food, lots of friendly folks and a little conversation about roses. So please come out and enjoy the evening.

Directions to August Picnic

From Huntington – Take 5th Street south and cross over I-64. Continue on Rt. 152 South toward Wayne, WV. Go ~7 miles on Rt. 152

[you will pass through Lavalette and cross railroad tracks three times] and about 0.2 mile after crossing the railroad tracks for the third time, you will see the entrance to the Rolling Hills subdivision on your right. The entrance road has low curving brick walls that have the Rolling Hills name on them. Proceed up the entrance road about 0.3 mile to the top of the hill. The road will curve slightly to the left as you near the top. At the top of the hill, there will be an intersection with Hickory Lane. Turn right onto Hickory Lane and go about 0.1 mile to Cedar Court on your left. Our home is on the corner of Hickory Lane and Cedar Court. It is light yellow with brown trim and a wooden fence around most of the backyard encasing about 300 roses. There are only 24 houses, all with large lots, in our subdivision, so we are pretty easy to find.

From East of Huntington – Take I-64 West and exit at exit #8 (5th Street, Wayne). At the top of the exit ramp there will be a traffic light. Turn left at the traffic light, cross over the interstate onto Rt. 152 South toward Wayne and follow the directions above.

From West of Huntington – Take I-64 East and exit the interstate at Exit 8. At the top of the exit ramp veer right and turn onto Rt. 152 South toward Wayne and follow the directions above.

Aren't All Roses Shrubs?

By:Loren Siebold, lorensiebold@ameritech.net

Well, yeah. Sort of. Botanically speaking, at least. Any plant that arises from the ground without a single woody trunk separating the roots from the branches is technically a shrub rather than a tree. That makes roses—at least those growing on their own God-given roots—shrubs. (The thing in the rose catalog called a tree rose is a Frankenstein creation of grafted parts from several roses; it doesn't exist in nature.)

So why would we refer to just some roses as shrub roses? On his website, Minnesota nurseryman Sam Kedem admits that, “The term ‘shrub rose’ is somewhat arbitrary and may lead

to ambiguity.” Sam’s right, so let’s try to clear up the picture as much as we can.

When the American Rose Society talks about shrub roses, we’re talking about something quite specific. Officially, there are two major divisions of the ARS shrub rose classification. Under classic shrubs we play hybrid rugosas, hybrid musks, Kordeii hybrids, and moyesii hybrids. Musks, rugosas, moyesii and Kordeare splendid old rose lines that have been used to hybridize many roses, a few handfuls of which are still grown.

However, it’s the other major division—modern shrubs—that have put shrub roses on gardeners’ view screens because this is where David Austin placed his wildly popular new-old-fashioned English roses. I suspect that without Austin and like-minded breeders swelling this category with innovative looks in roses that didn’t quite fit in the usual groupings, the ARS shrub category would have remained insignificant. For a good portion of the 20th century, hybrid teas held the field with growers and exhibitors, and it is Austin who gets most of the credit for giving legitimacy to roses that didn’t fit in the mainstream categories but are marvelous in their own right. That’s benefited both exhibitors (there are Aexhibition trophies just for shrub roses) as well as growers looking for great garden roses.

So if you’re a rose exhibitor, you can only use the term “shrub” if the ARS classifies your rose that way. If, like me, you’re just a gardener who loves roses, you couldn’t care less what label someone put on a rose: if it’s pretty, healthy, productive, and easy to grow, I want to make its acquaintance. Informally, rose growers often refer to roses like that as shrub roses. Many nurseries, too, use the term to refer to a broader selection of roses than is included in the ARS classification. Sam Kedem (who’s done much to promote tough shrubs for his weather-challenged Minnesota customers) explains his shrub rose list this way: “There is an inherent difficulty in separating modern from antique, ground covers from bushes, floribunda from shrub, landscape from garden roses and so on. This category comprises delegates from many types of roses,

past and present, with a single common denominator: garden beautiful.”

So when nurserymen and gardeners talk about shrub roses, they’re usually not confining themselves to musks, Kordesii, rugosas and Austins; they’ll include any rose that has superb garden qualities like these:

- **Unfussy growers.** A good shrub rose should be one that an amateur can grow.
- **Roses that look good in the yard.** I love hybrid teas, but I think you’d have a hard time making the case that most hybrid tea bushes look as nice in a landscape as their blossoms do in a vase. While shrubs may have bouquet-quality flowers, they’ll also do good service in the landscape.
- **Disease resistance.** Disease resistance is currently the holy grail of rose breeding. While resistance is improving in all rose categories, you’ll have the best chance of finding it among the shrubs.
- **Cold hardiness.** Several hybridizers (the late Dr. Griffith Buck, and the Morden Research Station in Manitoba, among others) have worked to develop handsome shrub roses that will stand up to bitterly cold northern winters—and they’ve succeeded.
- **Unconventional blossoms.** Thanks to florists and illustrators, a lot of folks for a long time supposed that a real rose always had to look like a hybrid tea. As a consequence, lots of gorgeous roses were ignored because they didn’t match that ideal. If you, like me, love old-fashioned looking roses and single roses, you’ll be happy for the new interest in shrub roses, because that’s where a lot of lovely but unconventional blooms found their *raison d’être*.
- **Showy displays.** Though the size of the blossoms on shrub roses varies, you’ll soon see that some make their biggest contribution in abundant displays of

blossoms that individually may not be remarkable.

- **Perfume.** What’s the first thing every person—adult or child—does when confronted with a rose? Stick their nose into it! A justifiable grievance about modern hybrid teas is that they haven’t enough fragrance—often none at all. Look among the shrubs for roses with good perfume.

Here are a few places where you might look for roses with these qualities.

David Austin Roses. Some of the Austins have the qualities we want in a good garden shrub — though to be perfectly frank, some don’t. Perhaps because they’re developed for England’s climate, perhaps because marketing and reputation sometimes race ahead of experience in consumers’ gardens, some of the Austins simply aren’t as hardy or nicely-formed in American gardens as we might like. This does not take away a whit from the undeniable fact that David Austin’s creative genius is responsible for making the world love old-fashioned roses again.

Griffith Buck roses. A mixed bag of pretty good roses, whose claim to fame is winter survivability in northern climes. Some also have decent disease resistance. Check them out in person at Ames, Iowa’s Reiman Gardens .

Rugosa roses and hybrids. Rugosas blood is found in some great shrub roses, because of the rugosa’s blackspot resistance, fragrance, and cold survivability. Gardeners in the northernmost areas will want to check out Canadian creations like the Parklands roses. A warning: not all rugosa hybrids have all the rugosa’s great qualities in full measure.

Old Garden roses. Technically, these are varieties from many genetic lines that were named before 1867. But who cares their age? Among them you’ll find some durable, good-looking roses.

Kordes roses. A cross between a rugosa and a wichurana gave Kordes an unexpected fertile offspring—and a breeding stock that is still hard to beat. [Dortmund](#) is the highest rated shrub rose in ARS trials, not to mention one of the highest rated roses ever—and it deserves it.

Hybrid teas and floribundas. Yes, some of these supposedly finicky roses function as great shrubs. [Silver Jubilee](#) is a hybrid tea, but it is nonetheless a tough bush with healthy foliage and gorgeous flowers. Some floribundas make nice additions to a landscape, too.

Romantica. Unlike Austin, who used the modern shrub designation for his masterpieces, Meilland placed most of their Romantica series in the hybrid tea category. Don't let that discourage you from trying these dazzling, strong, traditional-looking roses.

Polyanthas. Anyone who's seen [The Fairy](#) or its relatives in glorious bloom can confirm the usefulness of this group.

Harkness roses. Harkness is a United Kingdom breeder, some of whose [creations](#) deserve as

much attention in American gardens as the Austins have received.

There are many roses that will serve as great garden shrubs. The best advice is to trust the lists of shrub roses put together by nurserymen, who tend to group these roses not according to the official categories, but rather by how they see them best used by gardeners. Finally, don't suppose that because you're planting shrub roses rather than more exacting varieties, you're sacrificing beauty. Many of the fussier roses are overrated, while their tougher cousins, the shrubs, are undervalued. To the assumption that shrub roses are "hardy and low maintenance, yet of lesser enhancement than the popular hybrid teas," Sam Kedem responds, "Nothing is further from reality." Browse a garden of shrub roses, and you'll agree. *Reprinted from the American Rose Society website; www.ars.org.*

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