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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**

**June 21, 2011** The regular monthly meeting will be held **Tuesday, June 21, 2011 at 7:30 pm at the Central Christian Church, 1202 Fifth Ave. PLEASE NOTE CHANGE IN TIME AND LOCATION!!** The program for the evening will be **"ROSE PHOTOGRAPHY"** presented by Beverly Delidow and Rudy Wang. Light refreshments will be served compliments of the society.

**September 16-18, 2011** Colonial District Fall Rose Show and Convention sponsored by the Charleston Rose Society.

**October 13-16, 2011** National Fall Rose Show and Convention sponsored by the Tinsletown Rose Society from Los Angeles California.

## **In This Issue**

<b>President's Message.....</b>	<b>1-2</b>
<b>Rose Show Cancellation.....</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Rose Photography.....</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>June in the Garden.....</b>	<b>2-4</b>
<b>Roses in Review.....</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Japanese Beetles.....</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Cutting or Deadheading.....</b>	<b>5-6</b>

## **President's Message**

**Bill Dolen**

I have tried to clean out some of my rose beds but have not made a lot of progress due to the weather. It has been so hot until the last couple of days that it is hard to spend much time in the garden.

We had to cancel our rose show because of the heat. Everyone's garden bloomed out early this year. Many of the out of town exhibitors who normally travel to be part of Huntington's Show went to shows that were in their hometowns.

We will have our photo class at Central Christian Church. The Rose Photography workshop will be from 7:30-9 PM at Central Christina Church 1202 5<sup>th</sup> AVE, Huntington on June 21.

Oleta and I ate at Bob Evans on Tuesday, June 14<sup>th</sup> and then went to the Flag Day ceremony at Pullman Square. It was a very nice evening and the ceremony was nice. We then saw John Ball as he is part of the Huntington Harmonica Club which played that evening. We had a good

time talking with John. He told me he had redone one of his old miniature rose beds and bought new minis which he replanted a couple weekends ago. I was glad to hear that he had not lost his interest in roses.

**We really need to try and attract new members. If anyone has some ideas that could help we would like to hear them.**

### **Rose Show Cancellation**

**Monica and Gary**

It was with great sadness that we had to cancel this year's rose show. Gary and I had called most exhibitors who had expressed an interest in exhibiting in the early evening of Wednesday, June 8<sup>th</sup>. We normally have over 250 entries in a show and it became apparent we would not have 100 entries. Consequently, we decided to cancel the show. The trophies we have collected will be kept for the 2012 show. There will not be a rescheduling to September 2011, as Charleston is hosting the Colonial District meeting and show and needs our help. So consider helping the Charleston Rose Society with the District Show and convention.

**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.

### **Rose Photography Workshop**

The rose photography workshop will be conducted by Drs. Beverly Delidow and Rudy Wang. The workshop will take place at Central Christian Church beginning at 7:30 PM. PLEASE NOTE the time and location change. Due to the high heat and care of the Ritter park rose garden, the garden has bloomed out and very little new bloom is coming. The park board has a new director and he also wanted to enforce a fee of \$100 for the society to use the rose garden and room with the view for this activity. The executive committee voted not to pay the \$100 and so we will move the workshop to the church.

Consequently, we will try a new approach. **NOTE: Please bring your camera and some roses for the workshop.** We will set up the roses in vases and conduct a workshop using everyone's roses. Rudy would like to have a friendly competition so we will judge some of the pictures and give the winner a prize.

### **June in the Garden**

**Monica Valentovic**

End of May to mid-June is a time that provides that first real flush of bloom in our gardens. We have had an early bloom cycle due to the heat as highs of 90 in early June are unusual.

Whenever you have the time and opportunity, you should spend a few minutes and enjoy your roses, their colors, symmetry and fragrance as each bloom is not long lasting.

The humidity and heat have been quite strong so far this summer. Be sure to water your roses especially when our daily high temperatures are in the upper 80's and low 90's. You know how important a cold drink is to you on those hot days and your roses will appreciate some water as well to help revive them in this heat. Watering is especially important if we do not get 1" of water in a week. We have been getting 1" of rain in our yard but each yard may be different so keep a check on your weekly rainfall. Roses need at least 1-3 gallons for a large rose and about half that amount for a miniature within a week.

If watering at night, be sure to water only the ground and not splash the leaves. Wet leaves left throughout the night are more likely to develop black spot. If we do not get rain for a week, you may want to spray the leaves in the early afternoon to allow sufficient time for the leaves to dry. I usually do this the day before I spray. It helps wash the leaves of any residue, cools the roses and helps hydrate the plants. Besides, our

golden retriever thinks this is great use of an overhead sprinkler.

Unfortunately, early June is the beginning of thrips season. Thrips seems to be very prolific this Spring especially the very end of May and first week of June as all the hay was cut in our area.

Thrips, same spelling singular and plural, although I must admit I never have seen one thirps in our yard. Thrips were very plentiful this year and many gardens that normally do not experience brown discoloration of their light colored blooms could have misdiagnosed this as heat damage. Thrips are small flying insects that cause damage to light colored petals. The scraping by the mouth of the thrips is revealed as brownish discoloration on the edges and in the center of rose blooms. We experienced the worst thrips outbreaks when the first cut of hay and tall grass occurs in our area. The best treatment is to mist the blooms with an effective insecticide such as Bayer Rose and Flower Insect Killer, Pyrethrin, Pyrethrin//Rotenone or Malathion. The blooms will need to be misted quite often as thrips are continuously moving into new areas.

The first Japanese Beetles in our yard were seen on June 8<sup>th</sup>. I have already killed several Japanese

Beetles as there were 3 mingling on a Lynn Anderson. There are many ways to control these pests and we prefer immersing them in soapy water. After the Japanese beetles fail the swimming test in a 16 oz. cup of soapy water, we discard the beetles in the trash. Do not crush or leave the dead beetles in your yard or rose garden as the eggs would then be available to hatch in your yard later in the season. Bayer rose and flow spray is also an excellent control for Japanese beetles. Some gardeners use Sevin liquid or dust (carbaryl) to control beetle infestations. This will work but Sevin dust or spray degrades in 3-4 days so Sevin must be reapplied at least every 4 days to be effective.

It is also important to maintain your weekly spraying to prevent fungal disease. During the summer the greatest risk for fungal disease is blackspot. It is important to rotate you spray material, apply your spray to the top and underside of the rosebush and maintain good rose culture. Good rose culture would include pruning to keep the center of the plants open to provide good air circulation and preventing splashing of soil with water onto the leaves. June is a nice time to enjoy your roses. Take some time and enjoy your garden. Take time to cut some bloom and let your friends and family enjoy the beauty of the rose.

All your work will pay off in roses with colors and fragrance.

### **Roses in Review**

It is once again time to do Roses in Review (RIR). This is the 86th time the members of the American Rose Society have evaluated new rose introductions. Everyone is invited to review and evaluate roses. The survey can be completed by mailing a review survey or online. The paper survey will be in the July/August issue of the American Rose magazine.

The results of each year's RIR help determine the ratings in the ARS Handbook for Selecting Roses. Remember the ARS ratings in the ARS Handbook are the garden scores.

**It is very important that all Consulting Rosarians complete RIR. Completion of the RIR is mandatory for all CRs.** Some people may wonder what to do if you don't grow any of the new varieties? If that is the case, then simply send in a report stating no roses grown for evaluation.

This year Diana Klassy our RIR coordinator for the Colonial District is trying to have a contest between societies to improve responses. So please fill out the RIR evaluations by going online to [www.ars.org](http://www.ars.org) or using the paper survey. The RIR online

version is scheduled to become active in the month of June. RIR must be completed by September 26, 2011.

### **Japanese Beetles**

**Gary O. Rankin**

Well, we have seen the first of the Japanese beetles in our garden this year. They arrived in the garden undetected and headed straight for the light colored and fragrant roses. The first few we saw must have been scared to death seeing us approach, as they all had sudden "heart attacks" and died (we helped a little bit). So here are a few tips to help you handle Japanese beetles:

1. Add Bayer Rose and Flower Insect Killer to your spray program. The combination of imidicloprid (Merit) and cyfluthrin (Tempo) knocks them dead. Sevin (carbaryl) also works, but has a shorter duration of action and spots the blooms.
2. If you don't want to spray, try the swimming experiment. Put a few drops of dishwashing detergent in a cup of water and gently tap the beetles into the water. After trying this experiment on about 1000 beetles, I haven't found any that can swim their way out.
3. If you decide to "put pressure" on the beetles to kill them, remember that a smashed beetle can release pheromones that can attract other

beetles. So, don't drop the dead beetles in the garden or yard.

4. Japanese beetle traps work best in someone else's yard, not yours. One year I put up Japanese beetle traps with pheromone attractors. However, some beetles got distracted and still went for the roses. Our neighbors thought that I knew what I was doing, and also put up traps. Then, I took our traps down and our Japanese beetles all went to their yard!

### **Cutting or Deadheading Roses**

**Rachel Hunter**

Once a rose has bloomed, it should be removed, and the term applied to this procedure is called "deadheading". One should use pruning shears that are sharp in order to avoid tearing the cane as opposed to cutting it. Cuts should also be made at a 45-degree angle and about 1/4" above a leaf set.

Roses are deadheaded in order to prompt the bush into producing yet more blooms. The blooms should be deadheaded just as the petals are about to fall or shortly thereafter.

The first blooms of Spring will typically be borne on plants that are rather short either because the bushes were newly planted or because they were heavily pruned back in the previous Fall or Winter. In any event, one must remove the first set of

spent blooms without cutting too far down the cane. A cut made at the second leaf axil down from the bloom will be sufficient to effectuate the removal of the spent bloom yet still leave enough cane to aid in the production of the second bloom cycle.

In subsequent bloom cycles, one can deadhead farther down the stem depending on the size of the bush. If the bush is a particularly tall-growing variety and one wants to control the size of the bush, a cut can be made several inches below the bloom.

Leaf clusters on roses either come 3, 5 or 7 leaves to a set. The first deadheading of the season will likely be made just above a 3-leaf set.

Future deadheadings will usually take place just above a 5-leaf set, usually because you'll find many more 5-leaf sets than 3 or 7. The goal is to cut the stem far enough so that when the new growth emanates, you'll have a decent-sized cane. If you cut up at a 3-leaf set, the new cane emerging will be quite small. If you cut down at a 7-leaf set, you'll be removing a lot of cane because the 7-leaf sets usually occur far down the cane.

In areas where cane borers are present, it is also advisable to seal the new cut. This can be done by either painting nail polish over the cut or using Elmer's Glue.

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