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# ***THORNY BUSH***

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

*Affiliated with the American Rose Society*

Volume 30 Issue 2

March, 2011

## **Dates to Remember**

**March 15, 2011** The first meeting of the year will be held on **Tuesday, March 15, 2011** starting at 7:30 pm at the Central Christian Church, 1202 Fifth Avenue. Archie and Linda Snedegar will present a program on "Friends and Roses". They have been working very hard on this program and hope you can make it. Hospitality will be provided by Monica Valentovic.

**March 25-26, 2011** The Pre-spring meeting of the Colonial District will be held at the Christ Lutheran Church in Staunton, VA. A block of rooms have been held at the Best Western. **A Consulting Rosarian Recertification will occur at this meeting.** You can contact John Fleek 9304-776-4048; [fleek@suddenlink.net](mailto:fleek@suddenlink.net) or Charles Shaner (450-294-2875) for more details.

**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](mailto: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](mailto:rankin@marshall.edu) or  
Monica at [valentov@marshall.edu](mailto:valentov@marshall.edu).

### **IN THIS ISSUE....**

<b>Officers and contact info.....</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>President's Message.....</b>	<b>1-2</b>
<b>Newer Miniature &amp; Minifloras.....</b>	<b>2-5</b>
<b>Tools of the Trade: Soil Knife.....</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Membership Application and Dues form.....</b>	<b>6</b>

### **2011 Huntington Rose Society Officers**

<b>President</b>	<b>Bill Dolen</b> <b>740-886-6457</b>
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<b>Corresponding Secretary</b>	<b>Cheryl Johnson 740-886-6240</b>

### **President's Message Bill Dolen**

The first meeting of the new year will be March 15 at 7:30 pm, I hope many of you will come out and join us. It will be good see every one after a long cold winter.

I spend a lot of time during the winter thinking about what I could do better to improve my roses and my beds this year. One of them is to be more consistent in spraying and fertilizing on a regular basis.

We have received a message from the American Rose Society about a need for funds to help with expenses. We all know that the last year has been hard on many of us as well as many businesses. I believe that we are able to help at this time. I will talk about this with you at this meeting.

Archie and Linda Snedegar will have our program this month, Roses and Good Times in Their Garden. Most of you have seen their beautiful garden, and we all know they are excellent growers and exhibitors. Come enjoy!

### **Newer Miniature and Miniflora Roses Gary Rankin**

As most folks know, I really enjoy miniature and miniflora roses. Over the years, a number of varieties have been grown in our garden, some of which are good garden roses and some that are good exhibition roses. Below I've listed some of these roses and some of our comments. While I get most enthusiastic about exhibition roses, many of these varieties are also good garden roses.

### **Miniatures**

**Aydan Renee** Our second year plant grew well and produced a few blooms with excellent exhibition form. The bloom is supposed to be a pale lavender and white bloom with a yellow base, but most of our blooms have had more red than lavender in full sun. This rose from

Whit Wells also makes a nice open bloom.

**Brenda Lee** This Whit Wells' rose has true miniature size with yellow blend blooms. Our second year plant did not grow well after a hard winter. Some blooms had good form, but we found it a new home.

**Emma Grace** This miniature is a heavily petaled, orange/yellow Whit Wells rose with good form. The eye-catching blooms are produced one to a stem most of the time and have exhibition potential. Our plant tended to sprawl, so if you get this one, it needs some extra room.

**Eternal Flame** We love the color of this high-centered exhibition miniature from Robbie Tucker. This rose is supposed to be an improved Dancing Flame, and it certainly seems to fit the bill, being much more disease resistant in our garden. The form is excellent and it grows much better for us than Dancing Flame. Second year plants still sprawled and it may be a little winter tender.

**Grace Amazing** This medium yellow miniature has been a little bit of a disappointment. Blooms have good form and come mostly in sprays. Second year plants grew slowly, and the plants remained small in our yard. The bushes seemed to be disease resistant, but they also seem to winter tender.

**Josh Alonso** Another sport of Bee's Knees with pink, orange and a little yellow blend in the mix. Our plants grew well and had some high centered blooms. You either like the color blend or find it a new home.

**Joy** This pink blend miniature from David Clemons is hard to get, but if you can find one, get it. The plants grow well and the blooms have excellent hybrid tea exhibition form that holds well. Should be a winner in the shows and in the garden!

**Magic Show** This miniature hybridized by Frank Benardella was one of our favorite new minis last year. The red-edged white blooms have excellent form and are held fairly well in the summer heat. Should be a good exhibition rose. The color is also striking and draws attention to it. This rose also won an AOE award in 2010.

**Memphis Bell** This one is a red miniature addition to Whit Wells' "Memphis" series. For exhibitors, the form on blooms has been good, although the centers have been a little low. For the garden, this one is a vigorous grower and blooms are a little large for a miniature.

**My Hometown** This Whit Wells rose is a nice red blend with good form. Blooms are true miniature size and plants remain medium in growth. Our plant didn't fare very well over winter/spring its first year, but with extra protection it did fine last winter. It makes a truly beautiful open bloom that reminds me a little of *Magic Carousel*.

**Peter Alonso** This rose has the same form as *Fairhope*, just more yellow. The form and growth habit of the plants we got last year are both good. This rose clearly has exhibition potential, but seems to be prone to blackspot just like *Fairhope*.

**Renegade** This Robbie Tucker red blend miniature was slow to grow its first year, but by the second year our plants grew well and produced lots of blooms. The blooms have good form and will show, but the vigorous growth make this one good for the garden as well.

**Tabasco Cat** This new miniature hybridized by David Clemons was slow to get growing last summer, and the blooms weren't anything to get excited about. One rose planted in the hottest part of the yard (on the south side of the house) grew better than the other two plants.

### Minifloras

**Abby's Angel** A really beautiful yellow blend rose from Whit Wells with outstanding exhibition form. Our plants have grown well and produce mainly single blooms on long canes. Abby is a little stingy with blooms, but they are worth waiting for!

**Aberlady** This deep yellow miniflora has exhibition form but it had a hard time growing in our garden. The non-fading yellow color is similar to *Ty*, but the bush is very stingy with blooms. We decided not to keep it after two years of trying to get it to grow.

**All American Girl** A beautiful medium pink exhibition miniflora with high centers from Whit Wells. The main problem with this rose is that it is winter tender in our area. So a little extra winter protection will be needed. It never has been able to fully recover from the first winter in our garden but should do better in warmer climates.

**Baldo Villegas** This *Shameless* look-alike has the potential to be an

outstanding exhibition and garden rose. The blooms are a beautiful creamy white with a scarlet edge and great form. Blooms seem to hold well. It should do well in the garden or in rose shows.

**Cooper** This newer deep red miniflora from Michael Williams grows well and puts out singles and sprays. It will be good for garden and exhibition.

**Daddy Frank** This new red miniflora from Robbie Tucker has excellent color that doesn't burn and the form is good. Blooms haven't held well in our summer heat, but plants are very vigorous. Bloom size was small last year, but hopefully it will increase with age.

**Double Take** First year plants were slow to establish and seemed to grow better in a pot than in the ground. The red and white blooms had excellent exhibition form the first year. However, both bushes died over the winter even with extra protection and were not replaced. They should grow better in more protected locations than our wide open garden.

**First and Foremost** A nice pink blend miniflora from Frank Benardella. Last year our new plants grew well and had numerous blooms in sprays. Blooms are a little frilly and centers haven't held very well in the heat, but the color, which seems more like a hot pink, is really nice. This rose was selected as an AOE winner for 2010.

**First Choice** We have seen beautiful exhibition blooms on this Whit Wells rose. The white blooms with pink to mauve edges have nice form and are also very attractive. Already on the

trophy table many times, this one is an excellent show rose. Our first plant didn't grow very well, but we have added two new ones for 2011.

**Flawless** A large medium pink miniflora from Frank Benardella. Second year plants were only medium in height, but produced excellent exhibition blooms. Our plants just didn't get very tall for such a large bloom.

**Focal Point** We got this rose two years ago. Initially, our bushes were slow getting established, but early blooms showed good form. Winter/spring killed both bushes, and they have not been replaced yet.

**Good Ole Mountain Dew** We really love the name of this miniflora rose from Whit Wells. In 2009, our plants got established in the garden, but we didn't get many blooms until the fall, where it made the cut for us. Last year, the plants were more vigorous.

**King of the Road** This rose is a new miniflora from Whit Wells. Early form was good and the red and white blooms are attractive. Last year blooms have been a little small for a miniflora, but we hope they increase in size with age and cooler weather.

**Lo & Behold** We got four plants last year which got established and starting blooming well. The bloom color is deep yellow and the blooms don't fade in the summer heat. Have seen some nice ones and look forward to this year's blooms.

**Mr. Lenard** A medium pink miniflora from Whit Wells has good form and substance. Unfortunately, bloom size

has been small for a miniflora, and it could use a few more petals. This one grows well for others, but not us.

**My Inspiration** This miniflora from Whit Wells is similar in appearance and growth habit to *Regina Lee*, but exhibition form is much more consistent than Regina Lee in our garden. The white petals, edged in dark pink to red, are attractive and the plants grow very well like Regina Lee. Plants tend to sprawl some, so give it room. I've already bought another one for this year.

**Power Point** Still one of our favorite minifloras. The form is excellent on the medium red blooms with pinpoint centers. It is winter tender in our area, so it needs extra protection. I added two more in 2010 and hope they make over the winter/spring.

**Shameless** Another Whit Wells rose that is also one of our favorites. It has been around for about three years and is both a good exhibition and garden rose for us. The blooms are a strikingly beautiful white edged in raspberry to scarlet and the exhibition form is excellent. Bushes are vigorous, but can sprawl, so give it room to grow.

**Show Stopper** The vigorous growing bushes produce lots of apricot/pinkish exhibition blooms. Centers were a little low the first year, but the spiral to a pinpoint center will catch the judge's eye. Last fall, we got the high centers and a beautiful rose. Plants grow tall for a miniflora and will sprawl somewhat. It will get blackspot if not sprayed regularly.

**Top Contender** This yellow sport of *Memphis Magic* grew well in its first year but we lost one over winter/spring and the remaining plant was slow to recover and still remains small. Blooms have good form, substance and centers, although they are a little low.

**Unbridled** This David Clemons rose was very slow to establish. Our plants have grown slowly over the last two years, but they did better last year. The blooms are quite beautiful with excellent exhibition form.

You can order many of these roses from Rosemania ([www.rosemania.com](http://www.rosemania.com)) or Whit Wells' new website ([www.wellsmidsouthroses.com](http://www.wellsmidsouthroses.com)). There are also other miniature and miniflora vendors. So if you are still having trouble finding one of these varieties, let me know.

### **Tools of the Trade: Soil Knife**

With spring fast approaching, we will all be turning our attention to weeds that have crept into our rose gardens over the winter. One tool that we have used a lot to remove weeds from the garden is the soil knife from A. M. Leonard Co. There are two soil knives sold by this company. One knife is known as the Leonard Classic (#4750; \$17.99) and the other is the Leonard Deluxe (#4752; \$19.99). Each knife has a durable orange molded composite handle and a six inch stainless steel blade. The deluxe model has one inch markings on the blade and will withstand 300lbs of pressure. Check them out at [www.gardenersedge.com](http://www.gardenersedge.com).

**2011 MEMBERSHIP IN THE HUNTINGTON ROSE SOCIETY**

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**Gary Rankin, Treasurer  
109 Cedar Court, Lavalette, WV 25535.**

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

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

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