

THORNY BUSH

Newsletter of The Huntington Rose Society; Huntington, WV

Affiliated with the American Rose Society

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Dates to Remember

May 16, 2017 The regular monthly meeting of the Huntington Rose Society will be held on Tuesday, May 16th beginning at 7:30 PM. The location is Central Christian Church, 1202 Fifth Avenue. The program for the evening will be **Making Rain Barrels** by Steven Grass. Hospitality will be provided by Linda Snedegar and Monica Valentovic.

September 5-11, 2017 The Colonial District Fall Meeting and Rose Show will be combined with the National ARS Fall Convention and Rose Show held at the Wyndham hotel in Gettysburg, PA. Contact for the ARS show is Nancy J. Redington, 717-264-6488, rosered1@comcast.net.

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President's Message

Monica A. Valentovic

So far this month we have had temperatures in the 90s. This week

Monday, I recorded a temperature of 31 degrees in our backyard. I had to spray the roses with water and luckily we did not have too much damage. The buds on the large roses were hit the worst. The miniatures were OK from the frost and freeze. I sure hope we are done with the frost and freeze temperatures. The news stated that we had the second wettest April since the late 1800s. This confirms what so many people have said about it being a very wet April. We also had a lot of wind this past week. I had to tie our large canes to minimize breakage due to the wind.

Our meeting last month was a success. Linda and Archie did a great program with beautiful pictures of the gardens of Scotland. Most people picked up their Mills Mix order at the meeting.

This month Steve Grass will give a program on rain barrels. Although we have had a lot of rain this month, you might consider collecting rain from your gutters in the summer when it is usually dry. The rain water collected is free water as long as you collect it. **Hope to see you at the meeting!!**

HRS OFFICERS FOR 2017

President	Monica Valentovic 304-697-0321
Vice President	Linda Snedegar 304-755-9486
Secretary	Archie Snedegar 304-755-9486
Treasurer	Gary Rankin 304-697-0321
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Hatcher's Greenhouse in Ohio

If you are still looking for a few good rose plants, then go to Hatcher's Greenhouse. We visited Hatcher's Greenhouse in Ohio this past weekend. They have over 100 rosebushes in the back greenhouse and near the front of the nursery. They have hybrid teas, floribundas, grandifloras, climbers, knockout roses and drift roses. They have Julia Child, a bright yellow floribunda that grows well in our area. They also had extremely strong plants of Drop Dead Red and Oh My! Both of these red floribundas have excellent hybrid tea form. Hatcher's also has Twilight Zone which is a deep purple with exceptional fragrance and is shown in the next column.



Twilight Zone



Violet's Pride



Coretta Scott King

If you are a Downton Abbey fan, they also have Violet's Pride which is a floribunda with a light lavender color.

Hatcher's has Coretta Scott King which is a grandiflora similar to the rose Gemini. Coretta Scott King appears to have fewer petals than Gemini but the color is striking and it is a tall upright grower. Other great roses at Hatcher's are Firefighter, a deep red with strong fragrance, Pope John Paul which is a fragrant white and Veterans Honor.

In the climbers, they have very strong plants of America, Fourth of July, and Candy Land. Hope you can visit their nursery.

Hatcher's Greenhouse is located at 8794 Co Rd 1, South Point, OH 45680. Their phone number is 740-894-4825. They are open 7 days a week.

MAY IN THE GARDEN

Monica Valentovic

May is a time when we can have large fluctuations in temperature within a 24 hour period. We can have a low of 40 and a high over 80 degrees. Although the warmer temperatures are nice, these large fluctuations can promote the onset of powdery mildew. Check your garden as the buds begin to set for any signs of powdery

mildew. We mist the buds and top part of the canes with a mixture of 1 TBSP baking soda and 1 TBSP dish detergent at the first appearance of powdery mildew.

During this month you should be spraying your roses every 7-10 days using a regular preventative fungicide program. I rotate between systemic and contact agents to minimize resistance in our yard. This is a good time to use copper and sulfur as contact agents. Sulfur and copper should be used when daytime high temperatures are below 85 degrees in order to minimize spray burn. Sulfur will burn your leaves if sprayed on plants that are not well hydrated or if the air temperature is too warm. I use copper at this time of the year as it is very effective for blackspot, powdery mildew and anthracnose. Another excellent contact agent is Manzate, which is a good fungicide for black spot and powdery mildew.

What is the difference between contact and systemic fungicides? Contact agents must be in contact with the fungus in order to be effective. The success of contacts is very dependent on the efficiency of spraying as the entire plant must be covered with spray material to reduce fungal infections. Contact fungicides must be applied thoroughly to the top and bottom of all leaves as well as the

canes as the spray must cover the entire plant in order to be effective. Many contact sprays are also washed off the plant quickly in rainy conditions. The exception is Manzate which takes quite a significant rain in order to remove it from the plants. Contact sprays are only effective on the plant components that are sprayed so in the Spring when we have rapid new growth, you need to spray every 7 days as new growth is not protected.

Systemic fungicides are taken up by either the entire plant or within the leaf tissue. Systemic fungicides allow for long term protection to your plant. Once a systemic dries on the plant, rain will not reduce its effects. The problem with using only systemic pesticides is the likelihood to increase resistance in your garden microclimate.

Remember to only use an insecticide if insects are present. The most common insects at this time of the year are aphids and cane borers. Aphids can be removed with a strong spray of water, insecticidal soap, ultrafine oil, Bayer Rose and Flower Insect Killer, Pyrethrins, Malathion, Imidacloprid or dish detergent. The best method for preventing cane borers is to cut the canes at a minimum of a 45 degree angle, apply Elmers Wood Glue or some other sealant. I have had to

apply wood glue to many of the large canes that needed to be pruned on our climber Altissimo as well as Nicole and Sally Holmes. These canes are very wide and need a quick application of wood glue to prevent cane borer damage

If midge has been a problem in your garden then apply Grubex to the soil now. It is important to apply Grubex (cyfluthrin/imidacloprid or a permethrin derivative/imidacloprid) early to help reduce the hatch of midge from the soil. Some rose growers are using Talstar. We have not used it on our roses but it did an amazing job for our asian beetle problem on the outside of our house.

Routinely go through your yard and begin disbudding your hybrid teas and miniatures/minifloras. Disbudding will get the energy of the plant to the main bud and make it larger. If you want sprays, then remove the center bud prior to its opening.

If you have not yet done so, add an organic supplement such as Mills Magic Mix, Alfalfa meal, Rose-tone, Posy Power or mushroom compost. The organics will provide slow release of nutrients, will provide humic acid to the soil and will be slowly degraded. Mushroom compost provides fiber to reduce compaction of soil. If you use

horse manure, be sure to add Preen to reduce sprouting of weed seeds.

Watch the weather, and if you have strong wind, then you should stake your new strong canes. You can tie the cane to a stake with twine or Velcro strips. You can also intertwine a tomato stake near the cane. Water your roses if your garden does not get an inch of rain per week. Although in 2017, this has not yet been the case. So far we have gotten 1-4 " of rain each week and have not had to water our roses. Roses may also need to be watered if we have a sunny but windy day which can dehydrate those tender new shoots. Your work will pay off with some beautiful bloom. Please enjoy your roses and share with our friends. May you have an enjoyable rose season.

Take Care of Your Pruners!

Gary O. Rankin

Spring is when we do a lot of pruning. It seems like opening the roses includes a lot of cutting out dead canes and shaping up the bushes to get ready for the growing season. Our main pruners are Barnel pruners, but we also have Felco, Black & Decker and a few specials from Big Lots! Whatever pruners you are using you want to take care of them. Here are a few tips on pruner maintenance.

1. Keep the blades sharp! Dull pruners don't work very well. Use a

hand-held knife/scissor sharpener with a finger guard.

2. Scrub off built up sap and dirt on the blades with a scouring pad (e.g. Scotch Brite, no sponge).
3. Spray your blades with Lysol to keep down disease. We put a capful of the concentrate in a one cup hand mister and spray the blades when finished pruning or after pruning out diseased canes.
4. Replace blades (rarely), springs (every two or three years) and bumpers (same as springs) as needed. Oil where indicated frequently.

2017 ROSE SOCIETY DUES

It is time to renew your membership for 2017. Membership dues remain at \$8 for individual and \$12 for a family membership. The renewal form is included in this newsletter. Send your dues to: Gary Rankin, Treasurer, 109 Cedar Court, Lavalette, WV 25535.

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.

2017 MEMBERSHIP IN THE HUNTINGTON ROSE SOCIETY

NAME(S) _____

ADRESS _____

CITY _____ **STATE** _____ **ZIPCODE** _____

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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)

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**The Thorny Bush
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