
THORNY BUSH

Newsletter of the Huntington Rose Society; Huntington, WV

Affiliated with the American Rose Society

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Dates to Remember

Tuesday, June 19th The June picnic for the society will occur at the beautiful home of Archie and Linda Snedegar beginning at 6:30. The directions and specific information regarding the society pot luck picnic are contained in this newsletter. Consider adding 15 min to your travel time due to the construction on I-64.

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President's Message

Gary O. Rankin

This has been a real roller coaster for the last couple of months. First, we had the cold spring and late freeze in mid-May to 80-90 degree weather the last few weeks. I think we skipped the "average" temperatures and went right to summer! We also finally got some rain this week, so we didn't have to water the rose garden. Maybe we

will settle into a regular weather pattern soon.

The spring weather and late May freeze were hard on our garden, and we lost a number of roses. We have been replacing them and the garden is starting to get into shape. While visiting the Ritter Park Rose Garden last weekend, we noticed that they too were adversely affected by the weather. The new roses they had planted were growing well but many of the older roses were either weak or had died. Monica also checked the pH of our beds and we found them to be a little too acidic. So we added pelletized lime last weekend and hope that the pH comes back in line before too long.

I'm looking forward to our annual Huntington Rose Society picnic coming up June 19th. Archie and Linda Snedegar are again our gracious hosts. Their garden is always so wonderful and the evening goes by way too fast. Details about the picnic and directions to Archie and Linda's home are included in this newsletter. So I hope you will plan on joining us for a

relaxing evening in their beautiful rose garden among friends!



Rose Society Picnic
Home of Archie and Linda Snedegar
118 Corey Drive
Poca, WV
Phone number (304-755-9486)

Archie and Linda Snedegar have once again graciously invited all of us to their home for the rose society picnic. Their yard is always beautiful, and it should be a nice evening. Please let us know by phone or email (telephone: 304-697-0321; email: valentov@marshall.edu) or contact Archie and Linda (304-755-9486 or asnedegar@AOL.com) if you will or will not attend. Archie and Linda have been gracious enough to once again provide the ham and fried chicken, green beans, lemonade, drinks, cups, utensils and plates. Since the picnic is potluck, bring your favorite salad, vegetable or dessert. If you have never been to their yard, it is beautiful, and there is always something different from last year.

Directions to the home of Archie and Linda Snedegar

- Take I-64 and get off at the Nitro Exit
- Turn Right, go 3 miles to Poca (you will pass Sentry Bank and Sheetz and a car wash you will have 3 stop lights.
- Continue straight and enter the town of Poca, you will see the fire department
- On the right you will see Gino's Pizza
- The second street on the right after Gino's is Silver Street (It is directly across from the Poca Baptist Church)
- TURN Right onto SILVER STREET, - You will pass the Methodist Church and several houses as the road curves to right.
- Go about 300 yards and turn right into SILVER VALLEY ESTATES.
- TURN INTO THE SUBDIVISION AND turn right onto the first street which is Corey Drive.
- We are the 11TH House on the right.
- Parking is on one side of the Corey Drive only. Alternatively, you can park in their driveway.

What is causing My Rose Petals to turn Brown..Is it THRIPS?

Monica Valentovic & Gary Rankin

During the last 2 weekends, I have noticed that the fields in our area are cutting hay. That is good news for the farmers, the cattle and the horses. The problem is that also means it is

prime time for thrips in our area. So far the growing season for 2018 has been unique with a wet Spring followed by large temperature fluctuations. During the month of June, we have been visited by rose thrips. It does not matter if you have 1 or 1000 or 1 million, they are called thrips. How do you know that you have thrips attacking your garden? Thrips cause your rose blooms to have splotched brown areas discoloring the light colored petals. I have noticed browning of the petals on Pope John Paul, Randy Scott, Sugar Moon and Falling in Love.



Brown petals due to Thrips on Quietness

What are thrips? Thrips (singular and plural) in the adult stage are really small (<~2 mm or ~1/16-1/8 inch in length) straw-colored winged insects. They are extremely active and can be seen crawling in or flitting around rose buds and blooms. Thrips also attack a wide range of ornamental plants and grasses. They can invade a rose garden quickly and especially when host plants (e.g. wheat or hay) are harvested.

Temperature greatly affects the life cycle of thrips. At 50° F, the life cycle is about 40 days, but when the temperature reaches the mid-80s, the life cycle is shortened to about 10 days. This means that the thrips are reproducing at an accelerated rate as the temperature increases, much as spider mites do. For example, female thrips can lay 50 eggs at 60° F, but will lay over 200 eggs at 80°F. So, the warm spring has resulted in a larger number of thrips than usual being present in rose gardens in our area this year.

What kind of damage do thrips do to my roses? Thrips have rasping mouthparts that can damage rose buds and blooms as they suck the juices from the petals. Since they usually hide in the tightest parts of the bud and bloom, thrips are often difficult to detect. However, simply moving the petals or blowing on the damaged bloom will frequently drive the thrips up from their hiding places where you can see them crawling all over the bloom. Thrips are especially drawn to light colored roses, but they will invade almost any variety of rose. This year I have noticed they have liked Randy Scott, Sugar Moon, Moonstone and Pop Warner. They also have done considerable damage to Souv. de la Malmaison, so even the old garden roses are enjoyed by thrips.

In monitoring tests for the presence of thrips in greenhouses, yellow and blue sticky cards attracted more thrips than hot pink sticky cards. Thus, thrips do have color preferences and light colored (white, yellow, light pink, etc.) roses are particularly vulnerable to thrips damage.

How can I control thrips? Controlling thrips can be accomplished with biological as well as chemical approaches. Greenhouses have used predatory mites such as *N. cucumeris* and *A. degenerans*, the pirate bug *Orius* and pathogenic fungi such as *B. bassiana* to control thrips. These biological approaches can be used as part of an integrated pest management system to control thrips. For the home gardener, these approaches are not as practical as for greenhouse use. Interestingly, some success has been attributed to growing garlic bulbs every 30 feet.

Chemical approaches to controlling thrips utilize insecticides and can include the use of Conserve SC, Bayer Rose and Flower Insect Killer, pyrethrin or malathion. Conserve is in the spinosad class of insecticides. Research at Ohio State University has determined that Conserve is effective at killing thrips, while sparing many beneficial insects. The components of Bayer Rose and Flower

Insect Killer are imidacloprid (Merit) and cyfluthrin. This combination insecticide is very effective at killing thrips, and, as an added bonus for exhibitors, it will not spot blooms when used as a misted application. Honey bees are susceptible to this insecticide combination, and it is best used when bees are not present (e.g. early morning) to lessen the effect on these beneficial insects. Malathion, an organophosphate insecticide, and pyrethrin are effective at killing thrips, but they too are non-selective about which insects are killed. Regardless of which insecticide is chosen for use, one application in the garden will not be enough. When thrips are a serious problem, applications of insecticide every two to three days may be required to stop damage as the roses open and expose unsprayed areas to the thrips.

An Evening with the Garden Club

Monica Valentovic and Gary Rankin

Gary and I were invited to give a talk about roses to the **Town and Country Garden Club** last month. It was an interesting venue as the meeting was held at a funeral home in one of the community rooms. There were about 15 members present at our talk. We gave each member a ticket with numbers but did not tell them the significance. The garden club began with each member indicating their

favorite rose. The most common variety was Knock Out. Gary and I began our talk by describing the different varieties and the spacing for the roses. We brought a **Mr. Lincoln** rose bush which we purchased locally. We talked about what makes a rose a grade #1 bush and showed them with the Mr. Lincoln the 3 canes. We then started to remove the bushy growth near the bud union of the rose. We also showed them how to prune to the first 5 leaflet and to an outside bud eye. You could see they were very interested and could see the difference we were making in shaping the rose. I next showed them with a paper towel how to polish the leaves and they were amazed at the difference. Finally, we told them we would draw from the ticket numbers and if the number selected so desired, Mr. Lincoln would go home to their garden. The first ticket drawn was a winner as the lady was more than happy to take home Mr. Lincoln. Demonstrations with live plants always help your audience understand your talk. We may not have gotten any new members that evening, but I think they may have expanded their rose interest beyond Knock Out roses.

**Huntington in Bloom
Monica Valentovic**

In case you missed our May gathering, the society unanimously voted to "Sponsor a Pot" with the Huntington in

Bloom Program which provides flowers in the downtown area. This is a worthy public service for our society.

Howard Walters Saying

I always enjoyed reading Howard Walters column in the *American Rose* magazine. Known as the Ramblin' Rosarian, Howard gave us all sage advice each month on how to grow great roses. Perhaps very appropriate for me was the saying from June, 1979 - "Rose experience is a wonderful thing. It lets you recognize a mistake when you make it again." Been there, done that!

Millstone

(Red Blend Miniature, Benardella, 2017; For Love of Roses, LLC)



The Huntington Rose Society	
officers for 2018 are listed below	
President	Gary Rankin 304-697-0321
Vice President	Archie Snedegar 304-755-9486
Secretary	Linda Snedegar 304-755-9486
Treasurer	Monica Valentovic 304-697-0321
Assist. Treasurer	Beverly Delidow 304-429-4211

2018 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**

Monica Valentovic, 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 Rankin and
Monica Valentovic, Editors
109 Cedar Court
Lavalette, WV 25535