
THORNY BUSH

Newsletter of The Huntington Rose Society; Huntington, WV

Affiliated with the American Rose Society

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Dates to Remember

April 18, 2017 The regular monthly meeting of the Huntington Rose Society will be held on Tuesday, April 18 starting at 7:30 pm at the Central Christian Church, 1202 Fifth Avenue. The program for the evening will be **Gardens of Scotland** presented by Linda Snedegar. Hospitality will be provided by Monica Valentovic and Gary Rankin.

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**

April is a busy time in the garden and how much you do depends on your microclimate. If you live in the city, then you may have roses leafed out. We are 7 miles south of Huntington and only a few roses are leafing out. During this month you should be weeding your rose beds,

applying fertilizer and start uncovering your roses. You may also consider testing your soil pH especially if you did not check last Fall. Remember that roses prefer a soil pH of 6.5.

The Mills order was combined with Charleston Rose Society in order to provide the best discount. The items were ordered and have shipped to West Virginia. The items were packed in a pallet that should arrive soon. We hope to have the items you ordered from Mills Magic Mix delivered in time to distribute at the meeting. Notify us if you want to pick up your items at the meeting.

We want to thank Diana Fleek for a great program last month on new roses. This month we have a program by Linda and Archie Snedegar on "Gardens of Scotland." Archie and Linda visited the United Kingdom last summer and they will share pictures of some of the beautiful gardens they visited. This will be a PowerPoint presentation and will have some nice pictures of some of the gardens they visited. There should be pictures to enjoy for everyone in this program. I really hope you can attend. Linda always provides an informative program with pictures of gardens containing roses, perennials and shrubs. Hope to see you Tuesday.

Monica

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
Assist. Treasurer	Beverly Delidow 304-429-4211

Orders for Mills Magic Mix

Orders for Mills Magic Mix, Mills Easy Feed, and other Beaty's Fertilizer Company products are being delivered from Tennessee the week of April 10 and will be ready for pick up at the April HRS meeting. Please call Gary and Monica at 304-697-0321 or email (valentov@marshall.edu), if you would like to pick up your order at the meeting.

Climbers

Gary O. Rankin

When I was growing up in Arkansas, my first memory of roses was watching my grandfather growing a few roses in the small backyard that we shared. We lived in a duplex with my father, mother, sister and I living on one side of the duplex and my grandparents living on the other side. My grandfather usually had three or so hybrid tea roses and a climber or two that he had purchased at a local store. He usually grew the roses along the chain link fence that enclosed our hilly yard. The roses never did very well, as they were inexpensive ones to begin with, our soil was very poor, and my grandfather never took care of them very much. But, the roses always had a few blooms, in spite of the neglect, of which he

was extremely proud. One of the roses he grew that I remember most was a *Blaze* climber that always bloomed with lots more blooms than the hybrid teas he was growing. So, when I moved to West Virginia, one of the first roses that I planted was also a climber – *Blaze*.

Today, climbing roses, or climbers as most folks call them, are extremely popular with the public. Most of the rose questions I get as a Consulting Rosarian about growing roses are related to shrub roses and climbers. You don't have to ask too many people why they buy climbers to find out why climbers are one of the top sellers among roses. Climbers have long canes that can be trained to grow along pillars, trellises, fences and even sides of buildings. They produce lots of blooms and provide a big splash of color in the garden. A few years ago, Monica and I went on a garden tour in Huntington. One of the homes that we visited on the tour had *New Dawn* climbing from the ground to the third floor roof! With all of the blooms, the side of the house was washed in white petals – what a spectacular sight!

What is a climber? Climbers are roses that are grown on their own roots, have long canes with many blooms, produce blooms on last year's wood and are generally winter hardy. Most, but not all climbers are repeat bloomers. Blooms are often large and the term large-flowered climber (LCI) has been applied to many climbing roses.

How do you prune climbers? In the spring, prune only dead or damaged canes until after the first bloom cycle. Since climbers will bloom off of last year's wood, pruning back live canes before they bloom will hinder blooming. Likewise, in the fall we

don't prune climbers in preparation for winter except to remove damaged or diseased canes. Hard pruning of the canes of a climber in the fall will hamper blooming the next spring. I was once asked to explain why a climber hadn't bloomed in the five years that the owner had grown the rose. It turned out that they pruned the climber the same way that they pruned their hybrid teas each fall - short. As a result, they were cutting away the bloom for the next year. However, to get new canes with older plants, it is a good idea to cut out a few canes that are five years old or older each year. By thinning out the bush, the climber will produce new canes and rejuvenate the plant.

Where should I plant a climber? As with most large roses, climbers need to be planted in a well-drained, sandy loam soil in a location away from trees in a spot that gets about six hours of direct sun a day. Climbers can be planted standing free or trained to a support as mentioned earlier. If you grow climbers standing free, then they will grow in all directions which will give the appearance of a tall and wide colorful rose bush. We grew *Jeanne Lajoie*, a climbing miniature rose, as a free standing plant at the edge of our yard. It was spectacular once it started blooming, being covered with small pink blooms. If you choose to grow a climber against a house or solid fence, remember that good air circulation around the bush can help prevent blackspot. So leave space between the planting hole and the wall/fence so that you have good air circulation.

What are climbing sports? Most climbers are hybridized to be large-flowered climbers. However, some rose classifications produce sports that are

climbing roses. Climbing forms of roses can be found among the bourbon, hybrid china, hybrid perpetual, moss, tea, floribunda, grandiflora, hybrid tea, miniature and polyantha roses. Some examples of hybrid tea roses that have climbing sports are: *Angel Face*, *Charlotte Armstrong*, *Chrysler Imperial*, *Double Delight*, *First prize*, *Paradise*, *Peace*, *Tiffany* and *Tropicana*. An example of a miniature rose climbing sport is *Climbing Rainbow's End*.

How is a climber different from a rambler?

Ramblers (now called Hybrid Wichuranas; HWich) are the forerunners of climbers and generally have longer canes than climbers. The canes can often reach the ground unless trained along a support (or eaten by deer!). Hybrid wichuranas have smaller blooms than seen in climbers that are borne in clusters and usually bloom on new wood. *American Pillar* is a good example of a hybrid wichurana.

Some examples of classic and newer large-flowered climbers, year of introduction and their 2016 American Rose Society garden rating (10 is the best score) are:

Altissimo (1966) – Scarlet to medium red 4 – 5 inch blooms with 7 petals and bright yellow stamens. A must for exhibitors. Repeat blooming. 8.4



Altissimo

America (1976) – Salmon buds open to 3.5 – 4.0 inch orange-pink hybrid tea form blooms with a lighter reverse. Grows slowly

to 8 ft. Repeat blooming with exhibition form. 8.2

Blaze (1932) – Clusters of bright scarlet 2-3 inch semidouble blooms are the hallmark of this classic climber. Can grow to 15 ft and is very winter hardy. Improved versions are now available for sale at some nurseries. 7.2. An improved *Blaze* called *Domkracie* was hybridized in 1935. It has a garden rating of 8.9

Casa Blanca (1968) – Blooms are considered as white or white blend with mild fragrance. Medium-sized, semi-double (9-16 petals), in small clusters, with flat bloom form. Occasional repeat later in the season. 9.1

Don Juan (1958) – Dark red, velvety 4-5 inch hybrid tea form blooms are very fragrant. Canes grow more erect and are good to train on a pillar or other upright support. Can be nipped by spring frosts. Repeat bloomer. 8.3

Golden Showers (1956) – Yellow 4-inch ruffled blooms are borne single or in clusters on very stiff canes. A good upright grower for a pillar up to 6-10 ft. An AARS selection. Repeat bloomer. 7.7



Golden Showers

Joseph's Coat (1964) – Buds of orange/red open to yellow 3.5 inch blooms which give a multi-colored appearance to the bush. Grows to 12 ft and can be winter tender. 7.6

New Dawn (1930) – A white sport of the LCI Dr. W. Van Fleet. A repeat bloomer where the parent is not. Grows to 20 ft and was the first plant to be patented. 8.4



New Dawn

Royal Sunset (1960) – The 4.5 – 5.5 inch blooms are deep apricot that can fade to a peach color in the summer heat. Repeat bloomer. Grows to about 6 ft. 8.9

Sombreuil (1880) – Tall grower, reaching 8-12 feet tall. Blooms are large, flat and quartered, which is reminiscent of old garden roses. A favorite for many years. 8.7

Some newer climbers are:

Berries 'n' Cream (1998) – Blooms are formed from 25-30 ruffled and streaked petals of old rose pink and creamy white. Blooms in bouquets on old and new wood and grows to 12 ft. 8.1

Fourth of July (1999) – The 10-16 petals produce blooms of red, yellow and white borne on large sprays. Grows to 14 ft and a repeat bloomer. Has the fragrance of fresh cut apple and sweet rose. AARS. 8.2



Fourth of July

Harlekin (2006) – Grows to 12'. Flowers are creamy white with reddish edges. Blooms have a strong, wild rose fragrance. Average bloom diameter is 3.5" with large, full (26-40 petals), cluster-flowered, cupped bloom form. 8.1

Pearly Gates (1999) – A sport of America with pastel pink blooms that have the same form as America's blooms. Grows to 12 ft and blooms on old and new wood. 7.7.



Pearly Gates

Soaring Spirits (2005) – The 5-8 ruffled striped petals of pastel pink and yellow produce blooms with bright yellow stamens in large clusters. Parents were *Berries 'n' Cream* x *Fourth of July*. Named to honor the 9-11 victims, this climber grows 8-12 ft. Repeat bloom on old and new wood. 7.9



Soaring Spirits

Spice So Nice (2002) – The ruffled blooms on this LCI are apricot orange with a yellow eye and appear in large clusters on old and new wood. Each bloom has about 30 petals and has a strong spice fragrance for the blooms and a juniper scent on the buds. Grows to 12 ft, but climbs best in milder climates.

Winner's Circle (2007)- This dark red climber comes from the breeder of The Knock Out® Rose. Winter hardy to zone 5, it is one of the most floriferous climbers. The fire engine red color is non-fading and can take the heat. In the fall, the foliage turns deep burgundy red and the plants are covered with bright orange hips. 8.2

The Impressionist (2000)- Is the first English style climbing rose. It is a cross of Graham Thomas and Distant Drums. This is available from Heirloom roses. It is a very good grower with a size of 6 foot x 9 foot.



Photo taken by Kitty Belendez from Pacific Rose Society newsletter article by Suzanne Horn.

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** _____

PHONE NUMBER _____ **E-MAIL** _____

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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