
THORNY BUSH

Newsletter of the Huntington Rose Society; Huntington, WV

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Dates to Remember

Tuesday, September 18th will be our monthly meeting occurring at Central Christian Church, 1202 5th AVE Huntington. The program is relevant for everyone as it is on **Birds in the Garden**. The program will be by Gary Rankin. Hospitality will be provided by Cheryl and Mike Johnson. Our meeting starts at **7:30 PM** and we will have our refreshments and ROMEO's pizza available prior to the meeting. Come hungry and bring a friend. We guarantee some relevant door prizes of bird feeders.

October 25-29, 2018 ARS National Convention *Fiesta of Roses* at the Crowne Plasa San Diego, CA. Information regarding the meeting and show can be found at the following link <http://fiestaofroses.org>

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President's Message

Gary O. Rankin

I thought September was going to be a relatively dry month, but was I ever wrong! As we left Friday for the Colonial District meeting in Gettysburg, PA, the weather was dry, but as soon as I took over driving from Monica around Clarksburg, the rain started. It rained all the way to Gettysburg, most of the time we were there and all the way home on Sunday. Over the weekend and early this week, we recorded over 5" of rain at our home. The good news is that we don't have to water the garden! With the remnants of Hurricane Florence headed this way, it looks like I won't have to water next week either. Now that we are getting a little cooler weather and healthy rain, the roses are growing well and we are getting longer canes and good color in the blooms. Rain water is better for the garden than city water from what I have seen over the years. But either way, roses need about 1" of water (rain or from the garden hose) a week.

It was good to see friends from not only our District, but also from the

Penn-Jersey District over the weekend. Everyone from West Virginia made it onto the trophy table, which was great, with Steve Grass doing extremely well - taking home two Colonial District trophies (the Ralph Moore [7 miniature roses] and the Ben Williams [5 minifloras]), King of large roses, placing in both the miniature and minifloras courts and winning numerous other classes. John and Diana Fleek also won a Colonial District Trophy, the Buck Trophy (3 shrubs). So, it was good to see so many West Virginians represented on the trophy table.

Last fall, Donna Smoot asked me to do a program on birds in the garden. So, this month's program will be just that. We'll talk about attracting, feeding and housing (different from a Birder's Motel) the birds, and I'll bring along some bird related products as door prizes. To top it off, we'll start with Romeo's Pizza. That alone would be enough to get me to the meeting! So, see you on Tuesday night and bring a friend.

Last Chance for Roses in Review (RIR) 2018

The deadline is September 26th to submit your roses in review reports. **You do not need be a member of the ARS to participate in RIR. We want to remind Consulting Rosarians that submission of a RIR report is a**

required duty for Consulting Rosarians. If you don't have any of the varieties, then submit that you do not grow any of the varieties. All reviews must be submitted electronically. Begin by going to the <https://modernroses.rose.org> that is a link from the American Rose Society website. Reviewing roses is free and your reports will go automatically to our RIR coordinator. The electronic submission will provide immediate reports to our District coordinator. This year's coordinator for RIR is Pam Powers.

HRS OFFICERS FOR 2018

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The Colonial and Penn-Jersey Combined District Rose Show and Convention September 8-9, 2018

Monica A. Valentovic

The combined Colonial and Penn-Jersey Fall Rose Show took place this past weekend at the Wyndham Hotel in Gettysburg, PA. Attendees from our society included: John and Diana Fleek, Steve Grass, Donna Smoot, Gary Rankin and Monica Valentovic.

We arrived late Friday evening, as it was a very rainy and foggy trip. We started at 6 AM Saturday morning and the preparation areas were already alive with activity. We did not know you had to reserve space for exhibiting, so we ended up in a hallway which was fine. We had good light, it was a little cooler than the show room, and we were close to the coffee and tea. You had to fill your own test tubes and miniature vials with water. This was not an issue since you had 4 hours to prepare your roses. We got our roses in before the deadline and cleaned up our area. The show opened around 1:30 pm and it had many quality blooms. I want to congratulate Steve Grass and John and Diana Fleek for doing very well in the show. Donna judged but won in the photography class. In the evening, we had the banquet and our speaker talked about companion plants for roses. We had many of the plants she discussed, which was an emphasis on purple, pinks and white. Our Silver Honor Medal recipient was Carol Fox, and the presentation was made with everyone who had a Silver Honor Medal up front during the presentation. Gary and I drove home on Sunday morning. It was still a very rainy, foggy drive and some of the two lane roads had flooded creeks, which were very impressive. We drove by Catoctin National Park which is a very remote but pretty area. It also is the location

of the famous Camp David. We arrived home safely, and it was a nice District show. It was a good time to see many of our rose friends.



Colonial and Penn-Jersey Rose Show

September in the Garden

Monica A. Valentovic

September is a time when our gardens are finally getting a relief from the 90 degree heat and the high humidity. Traditionally, September is one of the driest months of the year. September this year has been quite different as it has been very wet. We may receive considerable rain in the next week due to Hurricane Florence, so I hope you have good drainage!. This month is an important time in the garden. Things done in the Fall will help get your roses ready to fend off winter's cold snaps and keep your roses strong for the next year. Fall is a time when you think of football season, but Fall also means that our roses and rose gardens will begin to recover from the summer heat as the cooler days and nights approach.

First, for fertilization of your roses, remember to stop supplying nitrogen. By mid-September, the use of nitrogen containing fertilizers should be stopped. Nitrogen will promote new growth that will be killed when the first frosts occur in October. This loss of energy will reduce the energy stores of the bushes that are needed to help the plants survive over winter. If you do want to continue feeding, select a fertilizer such as Morbloom 0-10-10 which will stimulate root development.

Early September in our area can be cool, quite warm or very hot, and all of those temperatures can occur within a 5-day period! There are some problems that you still need to be vigilant for in your garden to prevent a major outbreak. Many gardens this year have experienced problems with powdery mildew and blackspot due to the rainy conditions and foggy nights. Keep spraying your roses with fungicides and try to rotate. I rotate between Immunox Plus, Cleary's 3336 & Honor Guard. Powdery mildew is a fungal infection that is caused by *Sphaerotheca pannosa* and appears primarily on the newer growth. In severe infections, powdery mildew can also appear on established leaves. The powdery white appearance of the mass of mycelium and spores looks like powdered sugar and gives this fungal infection its name. The earliest signs of a powdery mildew problem can be a purplish coloration on the underside of the leaf and a curling or puckering of leaf edges. Powdery mildew grows optimally when cool damp nights are followed by warm sunny days. Although humidity at night helps with fungal growth, dry leaf surfaces are required for optimal growth of powdery mildew spores. The best control of powdery mildew is prevention, using fungicides such as Immunox or Honor Guard when conditions are right for fungal growth. Alternative approaches include the

use of baking soda (sodium bicarbonate) or potassium bicarbonate (Remedy) alone or combined with insecticidal soaps or Sunspray ultrafine oil. These alternative agents provide protection by altering the pH of the leaf surface (bicarbonates, too high a pH for fungal growth) and by forming a barrier to fungal penetration and being a spreader-sticker for the bicarbonate (ultrafine oil). One recipe calls for mixing in 1 gallon of water: 1 Tablespoon of baking soda, 1 Tablespoon of Dawn Dish Detergent original formula and an optional 1 Tablespoon of cooking oil, if you have problems with aphids. Higher concentrations of any of these ingredients can burn foliage and should be avoided. Another product to prevent powdery mildew is E-RASE, which contains jojoba oil.

Spider mites have been a problem for many rosarians this year. To keep spider mites under control, there are several alternatives. First, a strong spray of water from underneath the leaves will blast the little critters off the roses. Water blasting of mites is best performed during the heat of the day, so that the roses will dry before nightfall. The water spray also gives the roses a cooling effect against the hot weather we have been having. You can repeat this procedure three times at three day intervals to break up the reproductive cycle of

the mites OR you can wash the leaves the day before your regular spray day and use a miticide such as Avid or Bayer Rose & Flower Insect Killer. A more expensive alternative to Avid is Floramite, which kills spider mites in the egg as well as adult stages. For the last few years we have had excellent control of spider mites by washing the underside of the leaves with a strong blast of water the day before the roses receive their regular spraying. Usually within two to three weeks the mites are completely gone, even in our hottest weather, and they are not a major problem in between sprayings.

Although we have not had to water due to the rainy weather, make sure your roses are well hydrated, especially when we have windy conditions. Normally, we try to give our roses between 1 and 2 gallons of water per week if it doesn't rain. September is traditionally the driest month between August-October. If this is the case, then you will need to water more often and roses grown in pots may need to be watered daily. So, don't forget to water you roses if they need it. Fall is a beautiful time in our area, and with a little care, the rose blooms can be large and the bushes healthy. Hope you enjoy your roses and share them with your family, friends and coworkers.

2018 MEMBERSHIP IN THE HUNTINGTON ROSE SOCIETY

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**Monica Valentovic, Treasurer
109 Cedar Court, Lavalette, WV 25535.**

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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
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