



# ROSE HERALD

## Ready for the Rose Show!

*Winning Techniques Taught at the Sandberg Center May 21, 7:30*



Our "Queen of Show" Helen Newman will demonstrate how to get ready for the Rose Show. You will see how to select a potential blue ribbon rose, identify it, disbud excess growth that might detract from its perfection, clean its foliage, trim the leaves to

camouflage damage, and fill out the entry tag.

If you're new, or if you've ever hesitated to enter a Rose Show, come for an evening of fellowship, learn the ropes, and gain a feeling of security about your preparation techniques.

[www.owt.com/  
rosesociety](http://www.owt.com/rosesociety)

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'Daybreaker' below was Lynn Niebuhr's winning floribunda in 2007 (*photo by Nancy Foster-Mills.*) 'Bulls Eye' by Rich Baer is the big central photo.

It's a lovely gift to us from Rich.



What wonderful spray form!

### CO-PRESIDENTS DON & JOANN SAYLER ENJOY ALL SPRING EVENTS WITH TCRS

Hello Everyone! While pondering how to open our message to you, I received an e-mail from Jeff Wyckoff, President of the American Rose Society, and Linda Kimmel, Chair of the ARS Newsletter Committee. BIG congratulations to Harlow Young in getting an Award of Merit for his column series "The Rose



"Whisperer" in our *Rose Herald*. Let's remember to feed questions to Harlow since he's now on the ARS website under Resources! Don't we all agree that our *Rose Herald* is a first-class newsletter?

We're having fun selling mini roses.

*Continued on Page 2*



**MEETING TIME & PLACE**

Monday, May 21, 2012 at 7:30 p.m. **Sandberg Event Center**, 331 S. 41st St., West Richland. Come at 7:00 to pick up containers and entry tags.

Driving Directions: At the intersection of Richland Bypass Highway and Van Giesen, go west on Van Giesen to West Richland. Just past Road 38, the Public Library and City Hall, you will see a sign on your left for the Sandberg Event Center, a converted church set back slightly from Van Giesen. There is plenty of parking in two convenient lots before you reach the building itself.

**CO-PRES.' MESSAGE, Cont.**

They're so beautiful people can't resist, and at \$7.00, a bargain. My Don got a little carried away and bought one of each color (ten)! Kudos to Helen Newman for taking the shipment of minis under her wing: storing, watering, labeling, obtaining the license to sell, and transporting them where needed. No small task. Helen also managed our day of selling at the Master Gardener's Plant Sale where we had good results.

Did anyone else have to spray often for powdery mildew this spring? It's unusual for us, but I'm keeping ahead of it. My neighbor asked me to check his rose hedge, and I was shocked to see so much mildew. We clipped off the worst and sprayed the rest. Hope it's enough. Does the Rose Whisperer know if we should have pruned the hedge way back and let it all grow again?

Because of Memorial Day falling on the fourth Monday, we

will meet May 21, the third Monday. See you then!—*Joann & Don*

**COLUMBIA BASIN DISTRIBUTORS DONATES FERTILIZER TREATMENT TO THE TRI-CITY ROSE SOCIETY**

In February 2012 Delores Beyersdorf and Ray Gorbett of Columbia Basin Distributors met Tom Miles at the Tri-City Home And Garden Show. Columbia Basin Distributors sells both certified and non-certified organic fertilizers and soil amendments.

Delores, Ray and Tom analyzed the most recent soil test taken on the Tri-City Honor Garden and determined that most soil nutrients were quite high, along with several trace minerals; but the calcium level was about half of what it should be.



According to most soil experts, insufficient calcium will affect the plant's ability to assimilate trace minerals. Armed with this information, it was determined that a treatment of calcium carbonate along with microbes and a soil nutrient pack would be most likely to bring the soil back to a more balanced nature.

On April 23, the rose garden was treated. At the time of this writing, the garden has shown a tremendous improvement. Leaf

color has improved and aphids have been reduced, likely due to an overall improvement in plant health.

Tom says, "I am going to contact Delores Beyersdorf and Ray Gorbett to make sure there will be no charge for the proposed June soil test and proposed monthly fertilizer follow up plan. The TCRS board of directors would have to approve any fees." Janet Bryant adds a request for Ray and Delores to tell us what a home garden would cost for such an analysis...so we could drum up business for them.—*Story sent by Tom Miles, Honor Garden Chair*

**ROSE SHOW REMINDERS**

Polish your trophies, bring your prizes, and disbud your roses.

You have an opportunity to attend the judges seminar held Saturday at the Shilo in the early evening. If you are a judge, you will get credit; if you are not a judge, you will obtain valuable knowledge on what the judges are looking for in a rose entry. A signup sheet, time and cost of the seminar will be available at the meeting, or call Jim Campbell at 967-2606.

We will be signing up and paying for the luncheon at the May meeting.

I still don't have a Chair for Entries, so once you have entered your own roses, please stay awhile and help others enter theirs.

We will have entry tags and bottles at the May meeting (starting at 7:00 p.m.) and at the entry tables on Sunday, June 3.—*Reminders contributed by JoAnn Brehm, Show Chair*

**MINI ROSE SALE REPORT**

We received 250 mini roses from Canadian sources, and they



were the nicest we have ever tried to sell. Master Gardeners agreed to let us share their moment at the Plant Sale behind the Kennewick Library in the parking lot. We obtained our own permit from the City of Kennewick. The sale was advertised in the newspaper and produced a somewhat steady stream of customers. The weather was cool and breezy, but okay.

We have about 85 plants left out of the 250 we ordered. We have covered the cost of buying them and will try again to sell them at the Rose Show June 3.

The potting medium was very porous and did not hold moisture at all. So my granddaughter and I repotted them with soil that should hold them until the show.

Most of the pots have 4 plants in each one. The plants are not names that most of us are familiar with, but their form, foliage and color are very striking. They are about a foot tall and are loaded with buds and blooms. Obviously they will require some dead-heading by show time, but that will be done.

Thanks to Jolene Angelos, Norma Boswell, the Saylers, the Webers, Lynn Niebuhr and Steve Sherrell for helping with the set up, the sale and the take down. All

the efforts were appreciated.—  
*Helen Newman, Mini Rose Sale Chair*

**ADD NEW MEMBER NAMES**

Please add the following names to your membership list published in the April newsletter.

Steve Sherrell (no phone) and Katherine LeVasseur - 619-0729. We welcome you!— *From your Membership Chairs Rich & Linda Kerkof*

**MINUTES, APRIL 23, 2012**

The meeting was called to order at 7:45 p.m. April 23, 2012 at the Sandberg Event Center by CO-President Joann Sayler, with 26 in attendance, including new member Rita Sevcik and guest Marge Garrett.

**Treasurer's Report**—no report due to Bob's absence.

**Membership**—currently there are 62 paid members. Compliments from the group at large were expressed for a great job on membership.

**Publicity**—Helen Newman will be selling mini roses at the Master Gardeners Plant Sale on 4/28/12 for \$7.00 per bush. Several nice-looking specimens were on display at the meeting.

Our Annual Spring Rose Show is scheduled for 6/3/12. JoAnn Brehm informed us that the theme this year is "Out of Africa." Our last meeting before the rose show is 5/21/12. Dorothy Campbell is working on the luncheon. Dorothy suggested buying gifts, prizes, and gift certificates from our Show Schedule advertisers as a way to thank them for their financial support of our rose show.

**Lawrence Scott Park Honor Garden**—Tom Miles reported four yards of bark mulch have been applied to half of the garden. Organic fertilizer was applied to increase the pH of the soil. Ray Gorbett and Delores Beyersdorf will visit the garden beds again in late June and do a soil test. Only nine members showed for our annual pruning at LSP. We can do better, members! Tom still needs volunteers for maintenance of rose beds at LSP.

**New Business**—CO-Editors Jo Angelos and Norma Boswell received a national Honorable Mention for the *Rose Herald*. This honor allows use of a special ARS logo in our monthly newsletter.

Jim Campbell was recognized and applauded for handling all of the rose pruning calls, and single-handedly doing the pruning for those who placed requests. His efforts have brought in several fundraising donations.

Harlow Young has rose markers for sale: 10 markers for \$4.00.

**Feature Presentation: Dorothy Campbell "Drying and Arranging Flowers" and JoAnn Brehm "Arranging Fresh Flowers"**—Dorothy inspired us to try drying our own flowers in silica gel and use them in various arrangements. JoAnn inspired us to try our hand at fresh arrangements, demonstrating making a table arrangement.

Kathy Weber was the winner of the door prize, a dry floral made by Dorothy Campbell.

The meeting concluded at 9:00 p.m.—*Rebecca Schmidt, Secretary*



### THE ROSE WHISPERER: FUNDING ROSE RESEARCH

While reading a recent copy of the *American Rose* magazine, the commitment to research in the ARS Mission and Vision statements caught my attention. The Mission Statement reads: “The American Rose Society exists to promote the culture and appreciation of the rose, through education and research, to members, to local rose societies and their members, and to the public.” The Vision Statement reads: “The rose is America’s National Floral Emblem. We aspire to be the nation’s



best

source for information, research and education about the rose for our members and for the general public. We will share this information through a website, a national network of Consulting Rosarians, and rose shows and non-competitive rose exhibitions open to the general public.” (Underlines are mine.)

The commitment of the ARS to research, in support of rose enthusiasts like us, is important. Following up on this topic, I contacted our ARS President, Jeff Wyckoff, asking him to direct me to the person within ARS who could describe the types of research currently supported. Jeff forwarded my inquiry to Dr. Bruce

Monroe, Chairman of the Research Endowment Trust. The Research Endowment Trust, one of four Trusts of the American Rose Society, was created in 1991 to provide funds for research in the historical origin, identification, breeding and culture of roses.

The activities of the Research Endowment Trust are overseen by three Trustees elected by the ARS Board of Directors. The current Trustees are Dr. Bruce Monroe (Wilmington, DE), Chairman and current national chairman of horticulture judges; Dr. Don Myers (Wake Forest, NC) who is a past national chairman of Consulting Rosarians; and Dr. Andy Plasz (Libertyville, IL), a recipient of the Klima Award. The Trustees recommend projects to the ARS Executive Committee which must approve granting of funds in support of rose-related research. The projects must meet the requirements of the ARS Mission and Vision statements.

The Trust provides about \$10,000 - \$15,000 per year that is used in applied rose research. The Trustees have proposed to fund a few relatively small projects, rather than one or two larger ones, that will potentially have big impacts on rose growing and knowledge. Grants that are currently funded include genetic investigation of rose parentage, identification of disease tolerant roses, and research into Rose Rosette Disease (RRD). Of these, the Trustees have identified Rose Rosette Disease as the greatest threat to the future of commercial and recreational growth and enjoyment of roses. Though we have probably not seen this disease in the Pacific Northwest,

there is a possibility that it could eventually spread into our region if unabated. It is a devastating transferrable viral disease that destroys affected plants.

In 2009 and 2010, the Research Endowment Trust funded “Rose Rosette Disease Research” managed by Dr. William J. Patrie and Mr. James Redington, Department of Biology, Shippensburg University, Shippensburg, PA. The objective of this project was to characterize changes in gene expression in rose tissue resulting from RRD. An article entitled “Researching Rose Rosette Disease,” by Mr. Redington, appeared in the 2009 Rose Annual. Mr. Redington, a member of the Pennsylvania District of the ARS, also spoke about RRD at the 2009 All Mini/Miniflora Conference in Harrisburg, PA.

The Trust is funding the final year of the “Easy-Tea” program being carried out at the American Rose Center in Shreveport, LA in partnership with Dr. Allen Owings of Louisiana State University and Dr. Steve George of Texas A&M University. Dr. Owings is Vice Chair of the American Rose Center Committee and President of the Baton Rouge Rose Society. This four-year project, now in its last year, seeks to provide rosarians with a list of Hybrid Tea cultivars that can be successfully grown with minimal use of fungicides, and to identify those which display superior tolerance or resistance and can be used to transfer those traits into future rose hybrids. The project began by carefully selecting about 30 Hybrid Tea cultivars to identify those with the highest level of natural disease resistance.



The Trust has recently agreed to fund two additional projects. In one, various clones of the China rose 'Hermosa' are being investigated using DNA typing to determine whether they all belong to a single cultivar. Cultivars believed to be related to 'Hermosa' are being examined to verify the 'Hermosa' parentage. This project will demonstrate the use of DNA techniques to determine the parentage and relationship of various Old Garden Roses that have long been a topic of debate by OGR experts. This research will be carried out by a group of ARS members in California.

The most recently approved project is a three-year project to study the management of RRD. The objectives of the project are to determine 1) if Rosarians can be proactive in managing RRD in their gardens, and 2) if best management practices for RRD other than eliminating bushes with disease symptoms can be developed. This project, which is beginning in 2012, is headed by Dr. Mark Windham of the University of Tennessee, Professor and Distinguished Chair in ornamental diseases and past president of the Houston Rose Society. An advisory panel of ARS members from the Carolina and Tenarky districts will review the experimental plans and suggest ways that the outcomes of this project will best serve rosarians nationwide. Among this advisory council are Ann Peck of the Asheville/Blue Ridge Rose Society, who has extensively studied Rose Rosette Disease, and Dr. Don Myers, representing the American Rose Society and the ARS Research Endowment Trust.

The ARS Research Endowment Trust, like the other ARS trusts, is funded by contributions, primarily from ARS members. The Trust has not recently solicited contributions because it did not want to detract from other important fund raising efforts of the ARS. However, if anyone would like to assist rose research, donations can be made to the ARS Research Endowment Trust. Near the back of each issue of *American Rose* there is a "Gifts and Contributions" section. Part of that section includes instructions for "How to make a charitable contribution to the ARS." Under "Step 2" of this section, a person interested in supporting the research trust can check the box marked "ARS Research Endowment Trust" when making a contribution. Contributions can be directed to other ARS activities as well by checking the appropriate boxes on this same form. Contributions can also be sent electronically by visiting the ARS at <http://www.ars.org/> and following the donor links.

Finally, it is important for our readers to know that in each issue of *American Rose* there are one to two pages dedicated to "Recent Rose Research" which summarize abstracts of current rose-related research reported in scientific journals throughout the world.

The Rose Whisperer is appreciative of President Jeff Wycckoff, Dr. Bruce Monroe and Jack Kiley, our Pacific Northwest Director, for providing information that formed the basis for this article. I encourage all of our Tri-City Rose Society members who are not members of the American Rose Society to send in your

membership today to support the ARS in its commitments to Mission and Vision, joining me and others of the Tri-City Rose Society by supporting the ARS with your annual dues. After all, the cost of a year's ARS membership is about the price of two roses from either a local or mail-order nursery. It is a great value that more of us can afford. Also be aware that ARS offers trial memberships to members of any local rose society for only \$5. New members of the TCRS are eligible to receive a free four-month trial membership to ARS. If you are a new TCRS member this year and have not received any copies of *American Rose*, please contact Richard or Linda Kerkof, our Membership Chairpersons, to get your trial membership started.

The ARS accepts contributions in support of the Research Endowment Trust whether or not you are a member of ARS. The enjoyment of roses, for us and future generations, is dependent on maintaining the integrity of the rose through these types of research.

May we do our part to support the ARS as it supports continued rose-related research.—*The Rose Whisperer, aka Harlow Young*





## The Entomologist's Garden – Bumblebees

By Regina Johnson, CR, Editor of *The Clippings*, Olympia Rose Society.

Copied with permission from the April 2012 Edition.

Who doesn't like bumblebees? They're so cute and furry and friendly. They bumble about the garden, deceptively clumsy, bold shiny black coats with yellow or white or orange markings, visiting flowers and knocking them over with their weight, and getting covered with pollen. They don't sting – usually. I've only known one person to get stung by a bumblebee and that was a 2-yr old who picked one up and squeezed it. You'd sting too.

Honeybees are not native to North America and they don't like Olympia's cool, damp climate. They're Mediterranean insects; they like it warm and dry. Bumblebees are different. They are native here, Eight different species of bumbles in Washington alone, about 50 in North America. And they thrive in our cool damp climate. Sure, some live in deserts and semi tropical areas, but others range as far north as the Arctic Circle. They can operate at much lower temperatures than honeybees can, so they are often the first bees you see in spring, usually March but sometimes on warm days in February.

The first bumbles you see in spring seem huge, and they are. In bumblebees it's only the queens that overwinter, no workers, so the first bees out in spring are the queens, building their nest and foraging to feed the first batch of young. Only once those young have matured into worker bees will the queen retire to the nest. After that, all the bumbles you see are the smaller worker bees. The first generations of workers are very small as the queen had to feed them all by herself. Later generations get progressively larger as more workers are available to feed the next generation. Toward the end of summer, the queen produces males and new queens for next year's nests. You've probably seen male bumblebees without knowing it. They live outside the nest, so when you find bumbles sleeping on flowers early in the morning at the end of summer, those are the males.

Bumblebee nests are usually underground in an old vole nest, but they can also be in a clump of grass, a woodpile, a broken pot lying on the ground, or an old bird nest, depending on the species of bee. They don't live in hives like honeybees do, and their colonies are usually much smaller, since each one starts from a single queen every spring. Workers and males only live a few weeks, queens about a year. They make honey, but not much.

Like honeybees, bumbles eat pollen and nectar and they visit many of the same kinds of flowers. That means bumbles like roses! Bumbles are important pollinators for flowers, vegetables, orchards, berries, and wildflowers. They start work earlier in spring than honeybees do, as well as starting earlier in the day, and work on colder and wetter days than the honeybees can. Bumblebees can actually "shiver" to raise their internal temperature and get their wing muscles warm enough to fly on cold days when honeybees are confined to their hives. Bumbles also can pollinate flowers that honeybees can't. They have longer tongues for reaching into things like penstemons; and they do something called "buzz pollinating" on tomatoes, peppers, and cranberries, where they climb inside the flower and shake the pollen off by vibrating their wing muscles. Lack of pollination is a big problem for tomato, pepper, and cranberry growers around here – they require buzz pollination, which only the bumblebees can do; so if you're trying to grow tomatoes, or the tree fruits or blueberries blooming in cooler weather, you need bumbles.



Some bumblebee populations are declining. *Bombus occidentalis* used to be common and widespread but is now thought to be extirpated in western Washington, Oregon and British Columbia. Culprits are thought to include insecticide use, diseases introduced by commercial beekeeping, and habitat destruction. In the 1990s, *B. occidentalis* bees were collected for commercial propagation as pollinators for greenhouse tomatoes, and sent to France for propagation. After French-propagated bees were brought back to the western US and released in greenhouses to work, then wild populations started declining rapidly, leading to speculation that the French-propagated bees brought a European bee disease with them. Sound far-fetched? It isn't, unfortunately—pretty much the exact same thing happened to western white pines, *Pinus monticola*.

Many insecticides are poisonous to bees. It's important to follow label directions when applying insecticides, as the directions will include methods of reducing direct hazards to bees. But – keep in mind that the studies done for pesticide registrations look at direct harm to honeybees only, and are pretty minimal. I read pesticide registration documents at work and I'm not impressed with the amount of research that goes into environmental fate and hazards to non-target organisms—big conclusions being drawn from just a little tiny bit of data. Longer-term studies done by independent organizations like the Xerces Society and OSU find insecticide hazards to bees of all kinds are much more widespread than registration studies show.

As gardeners there's not much we can do about introduced bee diseases, but we are responsible to prevent habitat destruction. Bumblebees need uncultivated, undisturbed, insecticide-free ground for nesting and overwintering. The queens dig into soft, well-drained soil on a slight slope to spend the winter. Fence-to-fence intensive gardening doesn't leave the bumbles any place to build their nests or overwintering burrows.

Soil insecticides don't help either, since bumbles nest underground. If you're using insecticides - Sevin, Merit (imidacloprid), diazinon, permethrin, spinosad, and Orthene - on the lawn for crane fly, or in the garden for carrot maggots or rose midge or strawberry root weevils, they are all very toxic to bees, even when used as directed. If you're using these, don't apply them when bees are present, or broadcast them throughout the garden, or treat soil where bumbles might be nesting. Avoid spraying flowers, but spray late in the evening if you must spray flowers. If you're spraying for thrips, spray the flower buds just as the sepals crack - that's when the thrips are getting in anyway, and it saves the bees from direct contact. Imidacloprid in particular shows up in the pollen and nectar the bees are eating, since it's systemic, and it's very persistent in soil – up to **three** years! Petroleum oils, either as horticultural oils or as spreader-stickers, are also toxic to bees. Fortunately we don't need much in the way of insecticides around here.



Fungicides are generally considered safe for bees, but check out the literature I've posted on the website – <http://olyrose.org/articles.htm>. Copper sulfate and sulfur fungicides are toxic to bees. To help the bumblebees in your garden, you can plant early-blooming flowers they can feed on until the roses are blooming. Make sure you have single or semi-double or low-petal-count roses in your collection—if you can't see the stamens, the bees can't reach the food. In addition to roses, early blooms bumbles love include rhodies, pieris, crocus, tulips, balsamroot, grape hyacinth, camas, Indian plum, heather, violas, peas, lupines, mahonia, ceanothus, huckleberries, and foxgloves, along with all the tree, bush, and cane fruits. What a lovely garden these would make! And all dancing with the weight of bumblebees!

Bumblebees animate the garden, and they like roses. They're big and easy to see, and they come in different color patterns, all on a bold black background. They're not aggressive. They appreciate the work we do to provide roses for them to feed from, and we aren't using the pollen they're eating anyway. And we like photos of roses with bees in them! All that on top of important pollination services to provide us with food like apples, tomatoes, cranberries, blueberries, raspberries, sunflower seeds, et cetera. How could you not like bumblebees?

References: Griffin, Brian L. 1997. Humblebee Bumblebee. ISBN O-9635841-3-8.

Xerces Society for Invertebrate Conservation. [www.xerces.org](http://www.xerces.org).

Cranshaw, Whitney. 2004. Garden Insects of North America. ISBN 978-0-691-09561-5

## For your information... Judy Heath, *PNW Rosarian* Editor

John Moe, PNW District Consulting Rosarian Coordinator, has two power point presentations placed on the PNW District web site. The first power point is "Budding Roses" and the second is "Propagating Hardwood Cuttings." There are notes (lesson plans/script) that go along with each one. The web site is: [www.pnwdistrict.org](http://www.pnwdistrict.org). Just click on the "Rose Culture Articles" tab.



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## Mark Your Calendar

### May 21, 2012

Helen Newman will demonstrate techniques she uses to prepare her roses for our Annual Spring Show. We are meeting on the third Monday, one week early because of Memorial Day. Check "Rose Show Reminders" on Page 2. Come at 7:00 p.m. to pick up containers and entry tags.

### June 3, 2012

Annual Spring Rose Show at the Shilo Inn, 50 Comstock, Richland, WA 99352. Enter your beautiful roses between 7:30-10 a.m. Luncheon is at noon, when judges have completed their work. Show opens to the public 1-5 p.m. At 5:00 pick up your ribbons, prizes, awards, and any of your roses you want to keep. Leave all vases and containers at the show. Don't forget to buy a few mini roses.

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