



The Petal

A Monthly Publication by the Wichita Rose Society

Affiliated with the American Rose Society

April 2011

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Calendar of WRS Events

Tuesday, April 12

7 PM

WRS Regular Meeting

Botanica

Tuesday, April 19

7 PM

"The Hosta Guy"
Presentation

Botanica

Wednesday, April 24

Easter Sunday

Thursday, April 28

Executive Board
Meeting

Wednesday, May 4

12:15—1:00 PM

Lunchtime Lecture

Botanica

Fri-Sun, May 20-22

2011 Garden Tours

*Saturday
May 7*

**Benefit
Rose
Sale**

7 am—1 pm

Sedgwick County
Extension Office
7001 West 21st Street North
Wichita, Kansas

Varieties hard to find locally!

- ◆ **David Austin English Roses**
- ◆ **Earth Kind Roses**
- ◆ **Miniature Roses**

Mini's \$7.00
Large \$12.00

**ANY MEMBER CAN ATTEND
WRS BOARD MEETINGS!**

Contact Joel Weihe for location.

Meeting Brief

TUESDAY, APRIL 12

- Rose bed preparation
- Discussion on Rose Sale preparation

Refreshment Table

APRIL

DRINKS— Kay Case, Lisel Weihe

FOOD— Mary Lou Klenda, Marcee Suderman

DÉCOR— Debra West

REFRESHMENT COMMITTEE: SUJA MATHEW—729.0740



Articles for the May issue of *The Petal* must be submitted by May 2 to be published.

Send to: Sally Duncan

P.O. Box 3553, Wichita, Kansas 67201

Or email ThePetal@wichitarosesociety.org



WRS Summer Garden Tours

Saturday, May 14 Home of Cindy Vadakin. Consulting Rosarian and Sedgwick County Extension Master Gardener!

Saturday, May 21 Hillside Nursery. *A guided tour of the nursery. Bring your pocket book, for those must have purchases!*

April 2011



From the President's Desk

Joel Weihe

Friends,

I don't know about your garden but mine is really green-ing up! I just love this time of year when everything starts popping out, the trees are coming alive, the bulbs poking up through the ground and the roses preparing for blooms.

Our own Cindi McMurray showed us on Facebook that she has had a bloom already! Her "*Flamingo Dancer*" has produced a flower. Anyone else? If so, bring a picture, or a flower to the next meeting.

I'd like to take this opportunity to welcome our newest member to the Wichita Rose Society, Rochelle Wilson. We met Rochelle at the Garden show and are very happy to have her aboard.

Sally Duncan, our own little energizer bunny, has volunteered to be program director for the remainder of this year. This is exciting news as she has a lot of fun, educational and useful programs planned for us. We're very lucky. Thanks Sally!

Don't forget the big rose sale at Herb Day on May 7, at the extension office this year. Tell all your friends to get there early. We had some of our most experienced members choose the roses for the sale this year. It's going to be spectacular!

With that I will bid you all au revoir until we meet again.

Joel

Topic: Growing Lower Maintenance Roses

Lunchtime Lecture

Wednesday, May 4th

12:15—1:00 PM

Botanica, 701 N. Amidon

Presented by Cindy Vadakin (ARS Consulting Rosarian, Member of the Wichita Rose Society, and Sedgwick County Extension Master Gardener).



Come early to purchase catered lunch or bring your own.

Alfalfa contains a growth hormone that will promote vigorous green growth and new basal breaks on your plants. Several people have asked for the recipe for alfalfa tea, so here it is:

Put 10-12 cups of alfalfa meal or pellets in a 32 gallon plastic trash container with a lid. Add water, stir and cover. A broom handle works well for stirring. Let it steep for four or five days, stirring occasionally. It will start to smell (unpleasant) in about three days. Keep the lid on! Use about a gallon of tea on large rose bushes and less on smaller ones down to about 1/3 gallon on minis.

You can put the slurry left in the bottom of the barrel around your roses or you can add water and make another batch of brew. I usually put the slurry around the

roses and make another batch with new pellets. Alfalfa pellets come in 50-pound bags obtainable from feed stores. Make sure to get plain alfalfa. Some brands contain salt which would be harmful to your plants and soil.



If you want to get fancy, you can add up to two cups of Epsom salts, a half cup of chelated iron and/or a *Alfalfa* large bottle of fish emulsion.

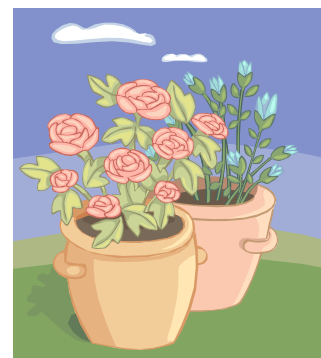
If you don't want to go to the trouble of making tea, you can apply the alfalfa pellets directly to the ground around the drip line of your plants and cover with mulch. This also works well. ❖

WRS Plant Exchange Kick Off!

It is finally SPRING! And that means getting back into the garden and preparing those beds for a beautiful summer.

It also signifies the Plant Exchange kick off! Between now until the first frost, If you have roses, perennials or seeds you need to relocate or divide bring them to the Plant Exchange at the regular WRS meetings! Please be sure to only bring healthy, disease free plants and clearly labeled.

Happy sharing! ❖



K-STATE Research and Extension
Kansas State University



**Sedgwick County
2011 Public Garden Tours**

May 20, 21 & 22
9 a.m. - 5 p.m. Friday & Saturday
12 p.m. - 4 p.m. Sunday

Ticket Information

\$10.00 per person
\$8.00 In Advance of May 7

Tickets are Available
at the Sedgwick County
Extension Education Center
7001 W 21st Street North
Wichita, KS 67205

& from Extension Master Gardeners

7978 E. Dublin Court
7124 E. Rockhill
4950 Wyndham Court
948 N. Porter
9602 W. Jamesburg
110 S. Socora
132 N. Rainbow Lake Road

Wichita Rose Society

2011 Officers

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Plant Exchange

- Bring potted roses or perennials you need to relocate to a new home for the Plant Exchange in the spring and summer months.
- Be sure to only donate HEALTHY disease free plants, please!

Sally Duncan, Editor
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