



The Petal

A Monthly Publication by the Wichita Rose Society

Affiliated with the American Rose Society

February 2011

Winter In The Garden

by Mary Scheulen

Winter is a strange time for most gardeners. In the fall you are cleaning up your beds and preparing them for the cold months ahead. Then there is Christmas, which occupies a lot of our thoughts and time. But come January, we start looking hopefully to the future and planning for a beautiful spring. What can you do? For Rose Growers, it is very important to WATER, WATER, WATER, especially when we have not had rain or sufficient snow to

keep the plants hydrated. This winter in Kansas has been especially

COLD and DRY. We watch the news and the North East is being bombarded by Snow Storms, the West Coast is inundated by rain. In Kansas, nothing but Bitter cold interspersed with alternating very cold and unseasonably warm days. These variations are very hard on roses and other perennials. Last week was in the 60's then back to the teens for lows next week! I will go out and connect the hoses and soak all my rose plants and other perennials.

Another interesting thing to do in the winter is look through catalogs or magazines and plan what you want to plant or change in your flower beds come spring. Now is the time to plan! And pre-order if you decide to add more roses to your beds. On these warm days, you can walk around your house and decide where the best location for another rose or rose bed

would be. In the Wichita Rose Society, we have traditionally ordered roses from Nurseries to be delivered in mid April for the society to sell at Herb Day (first Saturday in May). Of course as members of the Rose Society, we hope to see some of our favorites ordered. If you have not thought about this yet, you should look at the rose selections that we have coming in April and decide if some of these will work into your garden plans. In fairness to other interested buyers, we will not be allowed to pick our roses from the shipment before Herb Day, but you can make up your list and plan on being at the County Extension Office early on May 7, 2011. If you don't want to take a chance on missing out on your favorites, you can order directly from the Nurseries and have them shipped to you in late April or Early May.

While out in your garden you can also take note of how your plants are surviving the winter weather and decide which plants will need to be pruned or possibly moved to a better location. The pruning will need to be done in April when all danger of freezing is past, but the moving of the plants can be done anytime. It is easiest on the plants to move them to new locations while they are still in their dormant phase.

I challenge WRS officers and Consulting Rosarians to write a short article on the care of Roses and send it to the editor of the Petal for publication in future issues. It is the least we can do! ❖

Inside this Issue

- ◆ Newsletter Exchange Group
- ◆ ARS or IRS?
- ◆ Membership Dues Overdue

Calendar of WRS Events

Tuesday, February 8

7 PM

WRS Regular Meeting
Botanica

Monday, February 14

Valentine's Day

Monday, February 21

Presidents Day

Thursday, February 24

Executive Board Meeting

Tuesday-Sunday

March 2-6

Wichita Garden Show

Sunday, March 13

Day Light Savings Begins

Thursday, March 17

St. Patrick's Day

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

Contact Joel Weihe for location.

Meeting Brief

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 8

- Discussion on WRS Garden Show Booth
- Volunteer Sign Up
- Talk on composting and mail order roses

Refreshment Table



JANUARY

DRINKS— MARY LOU KLEND

FOOD— MARY SCHEULEN, KAY CASE, SUJA MATHEW

REFRESHMENT COMMITTEE

Call Suja Mathew—729.0740

Articles for the March issue of *The Petal* must be submitted by March 1 to be published.

Send to: Sally Duncan

P.O. Box 3553, Wichita, Kansas 67201

Or email ThePetal@wichitarosesociety.org



From the President's Desk

Joel Weihe

Dear friends and fellow rose lovers,

As I write this the temperature is dropping to an expected 11 degrees below 0 tonight. That's with an 8 mph N wind. Needless to say we are in the throes of a serious cold spell. I might even let the dogs sleep inside tonight.

It's been an up and down year for temperatures, more so even than usual. Some days are so nice this winter I half expect to see buds on the roses. Haven't yet though, thank goodness. Lot's of freezing and thawing gets my roses confused. We're spending part of the winter thumbing through rose catalogs planning what our garden will look like next year. I've become a believer in mail ordering our roses. Seems every rose we have ordered, no matter the supplier, have all grown up fast and hardy.

We'll all have a chance to expound upon the merits of mail order roses and which companies we like best and why at the next meeting. It will be a learning experience for all, novice and pro alike.

Lisel has had space in one of the front gardens vacant all last Summer waiting to fill it up this Spring with a William Shakespeare, Golden Celebration and a Dark Lady. Those will be at least three of the new roses showing up in our garden this year. Can't wait!!

Until we meet again keep your long johns clean and your boots dry. It's all down hill from here to Spring. The Birds will be singing and the roses budding before you know it!

See you all at Tuesdays meeting. Until then.....stay warm.

Over the last six months or so, I have been sending our newsletter to fellow rose societies nation wide requesting their reciprocation. With the recent establishment of an ARS supported newsletter exchange group founded by Sue Tiffany and others, we have increased our distribution even more! I am proud to say we are sharing our newsletter with 27 societies from coast to coast. Please go online to see the latest publications from our colleagues at www.wichitarosesociety.org.

Thanks go to all the editors and readers. It is wonderful that we can share news and knowledge!

- **Arlington Rose Foundation-Potomac Rose Society**, Washington D.C.
- **California Coastal Rose Society**, California
- **Central Florida Rose Society**, Florida
- **Charleston Rose Society**, South Carolina
- **Collins County Rose Society**, Texas
- **Del Mar Rose Society**, California
- **Des Moines Rose Society**, Iowa
- **Detroit Rose Society**, Michigan
- **Garden State Rose Society**, Pennsylvania
- **Greater Palm Beach Rose Society**, Florida
- **Greater Toronto Rose and Garden Society**, Canada
- **Humboldt Rose Society**, California
- **Indianapolis Rose Society**, Indiana
- **Orange County Rose Society**, California
- **Pacific Rose Society**, California
- **Phoenix Rose Society**, Arizona
- **Pikes Peak Rose Society**, Colorado
- **Portland Rose Society**, Oregon
- **Rainy Rose Society**, Oregon
- **Red River Rose Society**, Texas
- **San Mateo Rose Society**, California
- **Shenandoah Rose Society**, Virginia
- **South Penn Rose Society**, Pennsylvania
- **St. Charles County Rose Society**, Missouri
- **Temecula Valley Rose Society**, California
- **Tri-State Rose Society**, Tennessee

If you itemize your deductions, you can deduct expenses you incur volunteering for your local society, your district and ARS, as well as any donations to ARS. This is one of the benefits of volunteering for a non-profit organization.

You have an opportunity now to save on taxes and help ARS, even if you do not itemize your deductions. Persons aged 70½ or older can again enjoy tax savings by making charitable gifts directly from their Individual Retirement Accounts (IRAs), to charity, thanks to a provision of the Tax Relief Act of 2010. The act also allows charitable distributions made from an IRA in January 2011 to be declared as 2010 gifts, should the IRA holder wish to do so (provided you did not take your Required Minimum Distribution (RMD) during 2010. The IRS says you cannot retroactively back it out and use as a

direct denotation which qualifies as a distribution to charity.

Those IRA-to-charity contributions can be used to fulfill the RMD for those 70½ or older, and can be very beneficial since the donation wouldn't be counted as income. Your gift must be received by January 31st, 2011 in order to take advantage of these tax savings for 2010. Please consider making your annual gift to the ARS now in order to take advantage of tax savings and act now. Remember the transfer must be direct trustee to trustee to qualify.

If you can't take advantage of the 2010 deduction, remember to take advantage of this tax break for your 2011 Required Minimum Distribution

Consult a tax advisor or attorney for more detailed information. ❖



Featured Speaker Debra Fischer Stout, Northern Flyer Alliance.

The Northern Flyer Alliance is promoting the plan to bring train service back to Wichita!

\$16.75
12:30 pm
Airport Hilton Wichita
Call 744.2571 by February 12 to reserve your meal.

Project Beauty Luncheon

Thursday, February 17

Dues R OVERDUE!

If you haven't paid your 2011 membership dues—please do so immediately. You can pay at the next meeting or at www.wichitarosesociety.org

Single \$12.50 Family \$15.00

March 2-6

Volunteers Needed For:

- Set Up
- Clean Up
- Working the Show (4 hr shifts)
- Preparing Rose Arrangements

Joel Weihe 316.821.9437



The Wichita Garden Show is less than a month away and the Wichita Rose Society still has a lot of volunteer opportunities! If you are interested, come to the meeting on Tuesday to sign up OR you can call Joel! Volunteering has benefits! Those who work the booth in 4 hour shifts get into the Wichita Garden Show for FREE with their exhibitors badge, good for all 5 days!

Wichita Rose Society

2011 Officers

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WRS WINTER WEATHER POLICY

If the Wichita School District (USD259) cancels classes on the date of a scheduled WRS event—WRS will also cancel or postpone their event.

Sally Duncan, Editor
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Wichita, Kansas 67201

