



The Rambler



*Newsletter of the South Penn Area Rose Society
An Affiliate of the American Rose Society*

Jan. & Feb. 2011

Saturday, January 15, 2011

“How to Prepare for Exhibiting In a Rose Show”

By Mike Wrightstone

Back with us again, by popular request, is our good friend, Mike Wrightstone, from the Greater Harrisburg Rose Society. Who better to talk to us about exhibiting. Mike has been winning all kinds of awards lately with his exhibits, both locally and nationally. He will be able to show you how it's done and also answer any questions you might have about exhibiting.

Mike's program will also touch on what is new in the "Rose World," if time permits.

So, jot down your questions, and come to Mike's program and be ready to learn all about how to take a rose from your garden to the Trophy Table!

Date: Saturday, January 15, 2011

Time: Lunch @ 1:00; Program @ 2:00

Place: The Orchards Restaurant
1580 Orchard Drive, Chambersburg

Meeting Cancellation Information

In case of inclement weather, tune to 94.3 AM & 95.1 FM radio for cancellation announcements and check your E-mail for notification.



Winter Rose Get-A-Way Weekend

Our 2011 Winter Rose Get-A-Way Weekend will meet on February 18, 19 and 20 at the Eden Resort Inn in Lancaster, 717-569-6444. Please make your reservation before January 19th. Mention PA/NJ District Rose Society Meeting, Group #103700 to get the special room rates. Reserve by Jan. 19. For additional information, contact Kevin Glaes: kevyg@frontiernet.net or contact your *Rambler Editor*.

Saturday, February 26, 2011

The Exciting World of Bees

By Alex Surcica,

Franklin County Extension Assistant

For many years, Honey Bee colonies have been disappearing and in trouble. Many of us may not realize how very important bees are in our lives. Rosarians have been advised for many years not to spray in the early warmer hours of the day when bees are most active, so as not to destroy them. Because they pollinate fruits and vegetables, and without them, our food production will suffer considerably, bees are of vital importance to all of us. Many bee keepers transport their bees thousands of miles to help farmers, who lack adequate bees to pollinate their crops.

Alex's program will show us the world of bees in a way we never saw or thought about before. It promises to be an exciting program.

Date: Saturday, February 26

Time: Lunch @ 1:00; Program @ 2:00

Place: Bonanza Restaurant
@ The Chambersburg Mall

Cancellation Information same as our Jan. meeting

It's Dues Time!



Have you renewed your 2011 Dues yet? If you see a star beside your address label, it means your dues for 2011 have not yet been paid. Our 2010 dues expired Dec. 31.

Membership Prices:

Single Membership—\$10

Two names at one address—\$15

Make checks payable to SPARS and mail to:

June King

6471 Timber Point Circle

Fayetteville, PA 17222-9656

SPARS Holiday Luncheon

If you love great food and good fellowship, our Holiday Luncheon was the place to be, Dec. 11. Some *Special Elves* (**Rosemary Smith**, **Kim Spittler**, and **Cleone Hawkesworth**) did a wonderful job with the *Favors* and *Decorations* for our Luncheon, and we thank them for a job well done!

Our speaker, **Tom Mayhew**, presented an outstanding program about photographing roses and hummingbirds. Tom's pictures are always the best, and we all learned a lot more about how to photograph roses and hummingbirds. Also at our Luncheon was our **PJ District Director**, **Kevin Glaes**. It was our treat to have both of them join us.

Congratulations!



Four SPARS couples celebrated their Wedding Anniversaries in December:

Dale and Elaine Martin (60th), **Paul & Pat Fogle (57th)**, **Cleone & Hud Hawkesworth (60th)**, and **Yvonne & Jerry Crist (46th)**.

A beautiful and delicious cake, which we all enjoyed, was baked for the occasion by **Yvonne Crist**.



FYI (From the desk of Kevin, PJ District Director)

Please note that the correct wording is now "miniflora" - no capitals (MiniFlora) unless at the beginning of a sentence) and no hyphens (Mini-Flora). This should be an easy change and help promote uniformity.

Another Brain Twister!

Do you know what the favorite meals are for Honey Bees?

Check the March Issue of *The Rambler* for the answer.



In Memoriam

Our Sincere Sympathy goes out to **Jean Jackson**, who recently lost her husband, **Richard**. Our thoughts and prayers are with Jean and her family during these sad and difficult days. We will miss seeing him with Jean at our meetings.



Dandelions In December



One frigid and windy day in December of 2009, while on my usual morning walk along a special area where I like to watch for early Spring wildflowers, off in the distance, I was astonished to see a very bright yellow flower growing *through the macadam* on the roadside, and blooming bright and beautiful for everyone to see! As I walked nearer to it, I discovered, it was a dandelion! Just amazing. Aside from its blooming in such cold weather, it boggled my mind that it grew through macadam. No wonder it contains *lion* in its name!

Now, while I love the bright yellow color of dandelions, I'm very well aware of how gardeners don't delight in seeing them in their lawns or rose beds, or much of anywhere else, for that matter.

However, just about every time I see a dandelion, my memory still goes back to the days of my youth, in very early Spring, when my Mother would give me a dull old butcher knife and a bucket and send me off to cut the fresh dandelions on a piece of property in an area left to over-grow with whatever wild seeds were deposited there (always with permission of the kind man who owned it), before the dandelions bloomed. The last part of that sentence is critical.

If they were cut after they bloomed, the dandelion were bitter. When I had a bucket-full, I would return them to Mother, and she would wash them thoroughly (almost no one used weed killer in those days), and cook them to make the most delicious hot dandelion with bacon dressing I have ever tasted. Made all the drudgery of cutting them out of the ground worth while. These days, I see hot dandelion with bacon dressing listed on some menus as a gourmet dish. How lucky were we to have lived during those days.

Occasionally, dandelion were used for dandelion wine (I have always maintained that it tasted awful), and in our household it was used strictly for *medicinal purposes only*. Because of the taste, there was little fear anyone would want to drink it to excess!

So, while some of us, myself included, sometimes get more than a little upset when we see a gigantic dandelion growing and blooming in our rose beds or lawn, or when we see those white fluttery seeds blowing all over the place, I try to remember that spectacular dandelion on my walk, and the joy it gave me on that cold and blustery morning walk last December.

By June King

Managing Voles, Moles, and Mice

As seen in: "The Weekender from Viette's"

Dec. 15, 2010 issue, Lori Jones, Editor

Most gardeners think of moles when they notice that some critter is tunneling under their yard or garden. However, when plants and bulbs start disappearing, moles have nothing to do with it. Moles are insectivores, which means they only eat bugs, grubs, and worms. If plants are falling over from chewed roots and bulbs are no longer where you planted them, you probably have voles.



Voles can be damaging to plants, especially in the winter.

Both **pine voles** (*Microtus pinetorum*) and **meadow voles** (*Microtus pennsylvanicus*) are responsible for winter damage to trees and shrubs. Pine voles are especially fond of root tissue, and over a winter can chew and destroy the entire root system of a small tree. Meadow voles prefer feeding on the bark at or near ground level, often girdling the tree and causing it to decline and eventually die.

Moles tunnel through the soil creating raised mounds in your gardens and lawn. Their main prey is earthworms, but they devour grubs and insects as well. Since moles are carnivores, not herbivores, they generally are not responsible for damage to plants. In fact, on the bright side, they are often eating grubs and insects that you would consider pests in your garden! However, the mounds and tunnels they create in the lawn and garden are unsightly and annoying. These tunnels are also sometimes used by voles as a superhighway to delicious plant roots!



Moles are insectivores that tunnel through the soil creating raised mounds in the lawn and gardens.

Controlling Moles and Voles in the Lawn and Garden

Moles and voles can be difficult to get rid of, and some say the only way is to trap them. Many of our gardening friends have had success with certain repellents such as:

- ◆ **Bonide MoleMax Granules and Ready To Spray**
- ◆ **Mole Scram**
- ◆ **Liquid Fence Mole Repellent**

These repellents are biodegradable and safe to use around children and pets when used according to label directions.

Another Innovative Idea!

This past Sunday on Mark's "Easy Gardening" radio show, we had a listener who has had great success in ridding her yard of moles with a unique and inexpensive technique.

She found that filling the openings of the mole tunnels with used kitty litter caused the moles to completely move away. She did this at the beginning of the summer, reapplied one time, and never had a problem after that! For those of us who have indoor cats, it certainly is worth a try. Our listener, Betty from New Jersey, swears by it! I bet it would work for voles as well. I noticed some vole holes in my front garden, so I'm going to try it. I'll let you know if it works for me.

Protect Your overwintering containers from mice

Mice (and voles too) can become a problem for overwintering plants like tropicals, or even potted trees and shrubs that you just didn't get a chance to plant before winter set in. Sometimes, these pesky rodents can sneak into the garage or shed where your plants are overwintering and cause damage to bark and roots. A great solution to this problem is **Bonide Mouse Magic**.



Mice can be damaging to overwintering plants.

This all natural mouse repellent is very effective and easy to use. Mouse Magic comes in long-lasting "place packets," and is safe to use around children and pets.

(Ed. Note: reprinted with permission and edited for our growing area. For additional information from Andrea' Viette's Farm & Nursery, log on to Viett.com or call 800-575-5538.)



What is a Year

A Year is...The sparkle of Snowflakes
The sweet melody of robins, The fragrance of roses
The gold and ruby of fallen leaves
A year is 365 days of beauty...365 reasons for happiness.

Theresa Ann Hunt

South Penn Area Rose Society
The Rambler, June King, Editor
6471 Timber Point Circle
Fayetteville, PA 17222-9656

*SPARS Luncheon Meeting, Sat., Jan. 15 @ The
Orchards Restaurant, beginning @ 1:00*

It's Time to Pay your 2011 Dues



Affirm
Grown and Photographed by
Dale Martin

Coming Events:

- Jan. 15.....Program by Mike Wrightstone @ The Orchards Restaurant: “How to Prepare for Exhibiting in a Rose Show” and, time permitting, “News from The Rose World”
- Feb. 18-20Penn Jersey Get Away Weekend, Eden Resort Inn, Lancaster, PA
- Feb . 26.....Program by Alex Surcica @ The Bonanza Restaurant, Program: “The Exciting World of Bees”

Our Pecan Project!
*Just a few bags of our sweet, plump, jumbo halves of Georgia Pecans remain to be sold.
If you are interested in helping to wrap up this year's sale, please call
Rosemary Smith @ 263-0716.*

The Rambler is the newsletter of The South Penn Area Rose Society, an Affiliate of the American Rose Society.
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