



The Rose Arbour

*Newsletter of the Valley Rose Club
Volume 1 Issue 2 – November, 2010*

Editors Comments

We certainly didn't get to enjoy the beautiful September bloom that we did last year. The rather soggy September spoiled what could have been a bumper crop in our garden. But, that's Mother Nature for you – very unpredictable. We did, however, get an early start to fall clean up and putting the roses to bed. Having beat the deer problems (I think), I'm already looking forward to next year. Some of our members report having started early to get their gardens ready for winter too. You'd think that we have enough roses already, but that hasn't stopped us ordering a few new ones for next year. By the time I ordered roses last year, I was out of luck for a few roses I wanted. This year, I had my order ready and it was placed early enough to get a couple that sell out quickly. One of the new ones that sold out early last year was the new Austin rose 'Princess Alexandra of Kent'. Now where to put it? We have also, along with some of our members, started our new stock for tree roses next year. It's always exciting trying different roses to see which actually make great tree roses. Sometimes we win and choose a rose that seems to like it higher up in the air!

The weather forecasters have warned us that this coming winter will be colder, and it's possible that we may see a lot of the white stuff. Apparently we will experience La Nina (the girl) which is opposite to El Nino, (the boy). So, if you have not already done so, you might want to put that good old winter blanket on your roses. We have ordered our usual blanket (mushroom compost) so that we will have it ready in the event that old man winter arrives here early.

Don't forget to use the links page on our website. There are lots of interesting sites on roses so be sure to let me know if I have missed something worthwhile to link to. Be sure to check out the WFRS website as they are now producing an electronic newsletter with lots of interesting world rose news and views, and of pictures of rose gardens from around the world.

Rose-Growing is a delightful adventure. It is full of surprises, most of them pleasant, and all of them instructive. There is reason for the world-love for the rose. It appeals to all ages, all climates, and all conditions. It blooms as beautifully for the cottager as for the millionaire. From the earliest written records we learn that it was loved and grown many centuries before the Christian era.

American rose Society, 1931

I will be asking for bits of rosy news and observations from our members to help fill up this newsletter. Although we have planned on a quarterly issue, I would like most of the rosy news to come from within our club.

We all grow different roses and we are all very observant, so I know we can find lots to report on our roses, gardens and life with roses in general.

Krystyna & Andres' Miniature 'Work of Art' grows happily in a large pot.



Green thumbs create beautiful gardens

The Mother of Invention



When the going gets tough, the tough get going.....

As the saying goes, “necessity is the Mother of invention” and it is certainly true in the case of one of our more inventive members. The above powerful sprayer is actually a 15 gallon capacity farm sprayer (very reasonable cost) mounted on a pressure washer cart. The tractor battery has not yet been installed, but when it is, it holds a very long charge and produces a powerful spray pattern making the job of spraying roses an easy task. The cost of the whole unit, cart, sprayer and battery is a little over \$200.00. Watch Out Black Spot.....

While checking out some of the rose forums, I found what I think may be a very useful idea for those of us with pot ghetto’s.

Wicking potted roses

I am not an expert on potting soils (I use a very light prepared mix that is available only in San Diego), but I have recently discovered that wicking pots does seem to make a difference. To wick a pot, buy a cotton or rayon mop head (rayon is better if you can find it) and then cut the cotton strings off the mop and put one

through the bottom of the pot so it hangs out 3 or 4 inches at the time you put the soil in the pot.

Arrange it so the wick comes up to about the middle of the pot on the inside. Cotton clothesline would probably work as well, but not the poly ones that have no ability to absorb water.

Wicking the pot keeps the water in the pot from perching (i.e. failing to drain) at the level in the pot where the capillary forces (upward) are equal to the gravitational forces (downward). In other words, depending on your potting mix, the water will just stand at some point in your pot, usually a few inches up from the bottom. Layering materials in a pot (i.e. a so-called drainage layer of whatever) will not work. But the wick will solve the issue, and will make the pot more like planting in the ground from a physics point of view.



Business from the October Meeting

Our first elected committee is:

President – Ted Brown

VP – Andre Wasak

Secretary/Treasurer – Bill Meagher

Editor – Corinne Brown

The secretary treasurer will be set up a club bank account and send of affiliation dues to the American Rose Society. The next meeting will take place at noon, Thursday, November 11th at the Browns' home. The December meeting will be hosted by Archie & Nancy Watson. There was a discussion about attending the next District Show which will be held in Tacoma, WA on June 25 & 26, 2011.

Top Honours awarded at “Rose Hills” test garden in Whittier California

A deep red hybrid tea hybridized by Dr. Keith Zary of Jackson and Perkins has won the “golden rose of Rose Hills.” The red hybrid tea (code name ‘Always and Forever’) was the highest scoring variety in the trials held at the Pageant of Roses Garden at Rose Hills Memorial Park. In addition, six gold medals were awarded to other varieties, “Julia Child’, ‘Singin’ the Blues’, ‘Beauty Within’, ‘White Licorice’, ‘Magic show’ and ‘Silicon Valley Diamond.’ Judging is performed by a group of 54 International Judges.

I wonder how many of these will do well in our climate. I was very much taken with a photo of ‘White Licorice’ and would probably give it a try when and if it becomes available. “Rose Hills” is the only International Test Garden in North America listed on the World Federation of Rose Societies website.



Another interesting little tidbit from the faculty of science at the University of Western Ontario is experiments being carried out using tobacco leaves to produce a natural organic pesticide.

Experimental Investigations into the Insecticidal, Fungicidal, and Bactericidal Properties of Pyrolysis Bio-oil from Tobacco Leaves Using a Fluidized Bed Pilot Plant.

Faculty of Science University of Western Ontario

Tobacco and its evil cousin, nicotine? They're good -- as a pesticide!

Tobacco, used on a small scale as a natural organic pesticide for hundreds of years, is getting new scientific attention as a potential mass-produced alternative

to traditional commercial pesticides. That's the topic of a report in ACS' bi-weekly journal *Industrial & Engineering Chemistry Research*.

Cedric Briens and colleagues note that concerns about the health risks of tobacco have reduced demand and hurt tobacco farmers in some parts of the world. Scientists are looking for new uses for tobacco. One potential use is as a natural pesticide, due to tobacco's content of toxic nicotine. For centuries, gardeners have used home-made mixtures of tobacco and water as a natural pesticide to kill insect pests. A "green" pesticide industry based on tobacco could provide additional income for farmers, and as well as a new eco-friendly pest-control agent, the scientists say.

They describe a promising way to convert tobacco leaves into pesticides with pyrolysis. That process involves heating tobacco leaves to about 900 degrees Fahrenheit in a vacuum, to produce an unrefined substance called bio-oil. The scientists tested tobacco bio-oil against a wide variety of insect pests, including 11 different fungi, four bacteria, and the Colorado potato beetle, a major agricultural pest that is increasingly resistant to current insecticides. The oil killed all of the beetles and blocked the growth of two types of bacteria and one fungus. Even after removal of the nicotine, the oil remained a very effective pesticide. Its ability of the oil to block some but not all of the microorganisms suggests that tobacco bio-oil may have additional value as a more selective pesticide than those currently in use, the report indicates.

"As I work among my flowers, I find myself talking to them, reasoning and remonstrating with them, and adoring them as if they were human beings. Much laughter I provoke among my friends by so doing, but that is of no consequence. We are on such good terms, my flowers and I."

Celia Thaxter, 1835-1894