



ROSEWAYS

Bulletin of the Minnesota Rose Society,
affiliated with the American Rose Society
Since 1939

March/April 2015

www.minnesotarosesociety.org

Membership Meeting, Saturday, March 7, 2015

Where: Joseph's Grill

140 Wabasha Street, St. Paul, 55107

Time: Social hour 9:00 a.m.

Buffet Breakfast, 9:30 a.m.

Menu "East Side Scramble" buffet includes mini muffins, fruit, juice, coffee, scrambled eggs, bacon, sausage links and potatoes.

Topic: Debbie Lonnee, Product Development Manager, Bailey Nurseries, Inc will present: "New Plants / New Players in the Wholesale Rose Industry".

Debbie will discuss how recent changes to the players in the wholesale and retail markets will affect the supply of roses to Minnesota Gardner's. Included in the discussion will be recent introductions of hardy shrub roses.

The cost is \$14.00 per person. The deadline for reservations is Tuesday, March 3th. Please mail your check made out to Minnesota Rose Society to:

**Carol Evans
PO Box 16
Grasston, MN 55030**

President's Message - Brad Meyer

Every year since 1887 Punxsutawney Phil has had a crowd of people gathered around on February 2 to predict whether we will have six more weeks of winter or have an early spring. Last year Phil saw his shadow and 2014 turned out to be one of the most brutally long winters in the United States. The year also Phil saw his shadow and predicted we would have six more weeks of winter. This year, however, winter hasn't been as harsh as 2014, so I think this makes his prediction for 2015 a little easier to take. There is a little history behind Phil's predictions. Since 1887 Phil has seen his shadow 102 times (including 2015) and has only not seen his shadow on 17 occasions. For some reason, records for nine years are missing. If you go to Phil's website, it says Phil has issued a correct forecast 100 percent of the time. AccuWeather finds the rodent has an 80 percent accuracy rate.

Now comes the controversy. Alabama's Sand Mountain Sam, a possum, says that Phil is wrong and we will have an early spring. Since 1993, Sam has been wrong only once.

So now that we have a controversy, it is up to you to decide who you think is right. Remember, you have a 50-50 chance to get it right by picking either Phil or Sam. The sad part is these rodents might be just as good or better than our weather forecasters. This year I'm going to go with Sam. We have had so many cloudy days lately that I think an early spring would be nice.

On Thursday, February 19 through Sunday, February 22, the MRS will be hosting a booth at the St. Paul Home Show. I'm still looking for volunteers to help in the booth. If you can help, please give me a call at 612-363-4695. It's a good chance to get out and spread the word about growing roses and meeting people.

On the work front, it is really starting to heat up. The Easter lilies seem to be right on track. The other day the lily salesman came and set up a program on my computer to help track the lilies. I input in our minimum and maximum height, and it shows up on a graph. As long as I stay between the lines, we are on track. That means I need so many leaves to unfold each day. We are also getting thousands and thousands of plugs and cuttings in to plant. Each week gets a little bigger, with the first week of March probably the biggest.

Best wishes that Sam's prediction is spot on and we have an early spring.

Hope all is well with everyone.

Brad

Vice President's Column - John Lazar

Welcome to new members Deb Keiser, St. Cloud and Jack Falker, Edina who have joined our club. We're glad you've joined our club and we appreciate your interest.

January 10, 2015 Membership Meeting:

We had a good turnout for Deb Keiser's January 10th presentation on The Munsinger & Clemens Gardens at the Golden Nugget. The food and service were good along with her presentation.

What Deb is doing in the Munsinger & Clemens Gardens was thought provoking and should be considered for other gardens. The three points that stuck with me are the Japanese Beetles, winterizing and spraying. (These are also the most common questions that Arboretum visitors ask.)

The Munsinger & Clemens Gardens have NOT seen any Japanese Beetles yet. As you know, Japanese Beetle grubs are attracted to places with nice manicured lawns like golf courses and public gardens. As a precaution against Japanese Beetle grubs and other grubs the Munsinger & Clemens maintenance personnel treat the lawns throughout the entire Gardens with an insecticide, Imidacloprid. This is a proactive step against an infestation of beetles and the grubs. The insecticide kills the grubs while they are still in the ground.

Those of us in the metro area have seen beetles for several years. And like many others, I also put down Imidacloprid pellets around Memorial and Labor Days and it does help.

Deb also winterizes their roses with insulated (R-7) construction blankets rather than tipping them. To start out they plant their grafted roses about 3" below ground level. Then in the fall, they cut the rose

back to about 10" and rake compost around the base of the plant and cover the crown and root area with more compost. Once that's done, they cover the bed with the construction blankets and hold them in place with bricks around the perimeter of the blankets.

They have used this winterizing method successfully for several years. Deb's method reduces winterizing labor (tipping and raising), minimizes plant damage and permits earlier spring bloom. I've heard others talk about this method, but this is the first time I've heard anyone elaborate on the details. Depending on how many beds you have, summer storage of the blankets and bricks may become an issue. Many buy the blankets from construction tool rental companies.

Can you imagine the impact of using blankets at the Arboretum rather than all of the tipping and raising? Many visitors are intimidated by the tipping process. Winterizing the roses with insulated construction blankets might encourage more people to grow roses!

Deb is also very selective about spraying. She sprays only when needed and only the bushes that need it.

If you haven't visited the Munsinger & Clemens Gardens in St. Cloud, it is definitely worth a visit!

REMEMBER THE ROSE SHOW: The 2015 rose show will be on June 20th at Joseph's Grill in St. Paul - - only one day this year. Enid Walters and Jackie L'allier have begun to plan the event. Put June 20th on your calendar and let's hope the weather cooperates.

"BLOG" PAGE ADDED TO MRS WEB SITE: Early this winter, Jim Beardsley suggested we add a "Blog" page to our web site. A "Blog" page is a dynamic page that contains current information compared to the web site tabs which are fairly dormant. The "Blog" page could change frequently as new news becomes available. Jim Beardsley will "post" changes to the "Blog". The "Blog" presently lists: New Easy Elegance Rose for 2015 (Screaming Neon Red), Potential Sources for Above and Beyond, New Rose for 2015 (Above and Beyond, hybridized climber), the upcoming Membership Brunch Meeting and Arboretum Work Events.

Arboretum Update

The roses in the Wilson Rose Garden have been "protected" since mid-October. It's been an unusual winter starting out hard with good snow cover, a brown Christmas and mild January, then a more normal February but with low snow cover.

The Arboretum has estimated the following work dates:

When/What: April 18th, rose lifting

When/What: May 2nd, bare root rose planting

When/What: May 16th, rose pruning

When/What: June 6th, mulching rose garden

**Where: Minnesota Landscape Arboretum, Wilson Rose garden,
3675 Arboretum Drive, Chaska. MN, 55318**

Even though the above dates may change due to the weather, please pencil them in on your calendars! We always need your help.

What the H*^% is a Blog? And Why do We have one?

By: Jim Beardsley, MRS Blogmiester

Recently a "Blog" button was added to the Minnesota Rose Society website, Minnesotarosesociety.org or Minnesotarosesociety.org/blog.

So what is a blog and why did we add a blog to our website? For the answer read on.

Social media sites such as Facebook, Twitter, Google+, Instagram, etc. are the means by which billions worldwide interact. I know, I know, what happened to the telephone and face to face contact? Well they just have taken a back seat to social media, except for telemarketers, but that's for another discussion.

A blog is the simplest and cheapest of many social media tools that are available to The Minnesota Rose Society to maintain our social media presence.

Okay, so what is a blog?

Blog: a combination of weB and log= Blog. An interactive social media tool to chronicle daily activities or provide occasional updates. In simple terms a web diary. The MRS blog provides a simple way to update our website and stay in contact with users of our website, and for visitors to our website and blog to interact with us, by leaving comments, or sharing on other social media sites.

The MRS Blog may, in the long run, also save us some money. How? Before the blog, any changes or updates were sent to the company maintaining our website. Now announcements, copies of past Roseways and rose related news can be updated by our Blogmiester, JimBeardsley. Thus there is little or no cost for quick updates. Major changes will still go through our web maintenance company.

With a few simple keystrokes our Facebook page is also updated. This has allowed us to reach over 400 people who have "liked" our Facebook page to date and keeps The Minnesota Rose Society in the forefront of social media.

REMEMBER THESE DATES!!!!

March 13-15	NCD Spring Meeting
	Wisconsin Dells Wintergreen Hotel & Convention Ctr
April 25	Rose Education Days - St Cloud
June 20	MRS Rose Show - Joseph's Grill, St Paul
June 27	TCRC Rose Show - Bachman's, Mpls
July 11	Lake Superior Rose Society - Duluth
July 13	St Cloud Rose Show - St Cloud
July 18	Ramsey Co Fair Rose Show - Maplewood
Sept 4 - 6	NCD Summer Convention