

The Village Garden Center's Garden Club Newsletter

February 2010



A rose by any other name.....

Roses have along and colorful history. They have been symbols of love, beauty, war and politics. The rose is, according to fossil evidence, 35 million years old. In nature, Genus Rosa has some 150 species throughout the Northern Hemisphere, Alaska to Mexico and including northern Africa. Garden cultivation of roses began 5,000 years ago, probably in China. During the Roman

GARDEN CLUB SPECIALS - March
30% off for Garden Club Members Only
Spring garden flag- (limit one)
Spring scented Village candle- (limit one)
1 Yard of bulk mulch-
(limit one, redwood not included)

period, roses were grown extensively in the Middle East.

They were used as confetti at celebrations, for medicinal purposes, and as a source of perfume. Roman nobility established large public rose gardens in the south of Rome. After the fall of the Roman Empire, the popularity of roses seemed to rise and fall depending on gardening trends of the time.

During the fifteenth century, the rose

was used as a symbol for the factions fighting to control England. The white rose symbolized York, and the red rose symbolized Lancaster, as a result, the conflict became known as the "War of the Roses".

Roses were in such high demand during the seventeenth century that royalty considered roses or rose water as legal tender, and they were often used as barter and for payments. Napoleon's wife Josephine established an extensive collection of roses at Chateau de Malmaison, her estate in Paris in the 1800s.

Did you know..... Roses are often planted at the end of a row of grape vines to act as an early warning signal for infestation for diseases and insects like aphids.

This garden became the setting for Pierre Joseph Redoute's work as a botanical illustrator.

In 1824, he completed his watercolor collection "Les Rose," which is still considered one of the finest records of botanical illustration.

Schedule change

The date of the Spring Luncheon has been moved back one week to April 10th instead of April 17th. I apologize for having to change it, but I have a personal conflict. Our luncheon and seminar will still start at 11:00 a.m.

It wasn't until the late eighteenth century that cultivated roses were introduced into Europe from China. Most modern-day roses can be traced back to this ancestry. These introductions were repeat bloomers, making them unusual and of great interest to hybridizers, setting the stage for breeding work with native roses to select for hardiness and a long bloom season.

Don't forget our SUPER special garden club meeting in March. Kathy DeLara will be the guest speaker on March 20th. The seminar will start at 9:00 a.m. and will include a bird walk. Bring binoculars if you have them. Note the time difference!



Bring a friend to the next Garden Club Meeting. We would love to have new members, and they could have a lot of fun! If you decide to bring someone, please remember to call and let us know you will be attending by the Friday before the meeting. Thanks!

Roses are once again enjoying a resurgence in popularity, specifically, shrub roses and old garden roses. Gardeners realize that these roses fit the lifestyle of today's gardeners who want roses that are not as demanding with regard to disease control, offer excellent floral quality, have excellent winter hardiness, and fit into shrub borders and perennial gardens without seeming out of place.

Attention to plant selection, a basic knowledge of the wide array of varieties available, and information about potential disease and insect problems will go a long way in making roses an enjoyable addition to your garden.



Did you know.. Rose is the state flower selected by Georgia, Iowa, New York, North Dakota and the District of Columbia.

We will be open on Sunday, February 14th, for all of your Valentine needs. Remember us for fresh flowers, candy, and **free** delivery for your Valentine.

Did you know.. On a first date, a single rose symbolizes love at first sight. It can also be given in years to come to say "I still love you."

