

Ramblin' Rose "Outtakes"

The Charleston Rose Society

A Member of the Colonial District



Volume XXVI No. 1

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Ramblin' Rose Outtakes is an abbreviated version of the Charleston Rose Society's newsletter. Published monthly from March to June and September to December, *Outtakes* appears on the Colonial District's website.

(www.colonialdistrictroses.org)

The Charleston Rose Society, a member of the American Rose Society and part of the Colonial District, was founded in 1923. Its membership is dedicated to the growth of roses, the education of the public in rose culture, and fellowship with rose growers locally and across the country.

Meetings are held on the fourth Tuesday of each month from March to June and September to November at Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church in Charleston and begin at 7:30 p.m. If you are interested in learning more about roses and their culture, we would like to invite you to join us at any of our meetings. If you are interested in joining the Charleston Rose Society, please contact:

Dick Hanlon, Treasurer
Charleston Rose Society
Route 10, Box 101
Charleston, WV 25312.

Membership dues for the Charleston Rose Society are \$8 for an individual and \$12 for a family. This includes the newsletter.

ROSE OF THE MONTH



Baby Love

If you're looking for a rose that's easy to grow, disease-resistant and covered with bloom all the time, then consider *Baby Love*. A five-petal single with dark-to-medium yellow color that does not fade, she has a slight fragrance and semi-glossy foliage. The blooms grow mostly one-bloom-per-stem.

This rose started out classed as a shrub and I actually purchased it then, but since that time it has been re-classed as a mini. The bush gets to about 3 to 3½ feet tall and the stamens are large and beautiful. The bees love this bush and so do I. It won the Royal National Rose Society of England's Gold Medal in 1992 when it was introduced.

I prefer this rose to *My Sunshine* because I like the shape of the bloom better and you get much longer canes. I have won in both the mini single class and the English box class at rose shows with her and she has an 8.0 rating. Heirloom Roses sells this rose and I'm quoting from their catalog: "Heirloom has exclusive American rights to this rose which is considered to be the most disease-free rose in the world today." Perhaps this is why they charge \$16.95 per bush. Anyway, I love the bush and love the bloom and think you will also.

Donna Smoot

2009 Pre-Spring District Meeting



The Colonial District's pre-spring meeting was held the weekend of March 13 in Staunton, Virginia. Hosted jointly by the Virginia Peninsula and Tidewater rose societies, the meeting provided an opportunity for those attending to see old friends and get excited about the upcoming rose season. While Steve and I originally weren't going to go, we found out more about the programs to be offered and decided to head out. Dick Hanlon and Donna Smoot traveled with us, and of course John and Diana Fleek were there as well (you can't do without that District Director at one of these meetings!). If you'll remember, on Friday the 13th (hmmmm) we woke up to a heavy, wet snow. It was quite beautiful actually, and by the time we left Charleston at 1:00 much of it had begun melting. We saw snow all the way to Staunton; some closer to the road and in other places high on the mountains--it looked like someone had sprinkled confectioner's sugar over the tree tops.

A little more than 70 people attended. Both of the ARS candidates for Vice President were in attendance; Bob Martin talked at the Friday reception and Jolene Adams gave the after-dinner speech at the banquet. They also participated in the various classes held on Saturday. A consulting rosarian re-certification class was provided, as well as a re-cert session for the judges. Steven and I attended that one, and picked up some pointers regarding how collections should be judged and presented for judging. Some changes have been made to our rose show schedule for this year based on the information provided to us by Susan Clingenpeel (yes, Molly's Susan!), who is the National Chairman of Judges. We'll let you know about them at our April meeting. Later in the morning John Smith, an outstanding exhibitor from Maryland, talked about rose hybridizing. He has already hybridized a number of roses and won many awards with them. John is a very sentimental guy, and has named his roses for people who are special to him--*Snuffy* was named for his father, *Randy Scott* for his mentor and friend who passed away in 2007, and *Howard and Sara* for Howard and Sara Jones of Virginia Beach. Some lucky people already have his roses, and he should have a larger stock available for purchase by the general public late this year or in the spring. After hearing how long it takes to get just one rose into production (3 years for him, and 2-3 more years with a distribution company such as Weeks Roses), it makes you have a better appreciation for a good rose bush that costs \$25.

Lunch was on our own, and we decided to go down the road to Charles Shaner's new business location. Charles is the Webmaster for the District website, and he and his wife have had an ice cream store (the "Big Dipper") for over 20 years. They recently changed locations from an indoor mall to a strip mall, and have breakfast and lunch items as well as Hershey ice cream. John and Diana were also there, and the West Virginia contingent was well fed and had an enjoyable visit.

I had to bow out of the afternoon sessions because of a migraine (it had turned rainy and cold overnight--my internal barometer didn't appreciate that I guess). I missed the business meeting as well, but I do know that Mr. Fleek announced that Gary and Monica Rankin had agreed to be District Awards Liaisons, and that the District website had been awarded the Queen of websites by the ARS. Mr. Fleek will continue as our District Director for the next three years, and Richard Donovan of the Carolina District will become our new Regional Director, taking over for Nita Bowen, who served two full terms as well as the unexpired term of the late Wheeler McFadden.

The silent auction that had been open from Friday through Saturday evening was closed prior to the banquet, and after our dinner some roses were auctioned and raffle tickets were drawn for a variety of products. The West Virginia crowd came home with roses or various other goodies from the raffle and auction.

Lynda Grass

IN MEMORIAM



Ruth Harper, life member of the Charleston Rose Society, passed away on December 2, 2008, at the age of 94. She resided in Prociouss, Clay County, WV.

Mrs. Harper had not been active in the Society for the last 25 years, but she and her late husband, Dr. O. M. Harper, were active at all levels of the ARS during the 50s, 60s, and 70s. They were on the cover of an *American Rose* magazine in 1951.

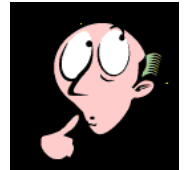
Mrs. Harper was a Horticultural Judge emeritus and a Consulting Rosarian emeritus.

The Harpers were winners of the National Nicholson Bowl in 1950 and the Rosedale Bowl in 1951.

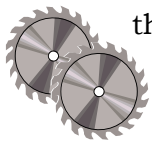
In addition to roses, she was a pioneer in raising Statewide awareness of the rich cultural heritage of West Virginia's craft artisans. She traveled the State extensively, speaking to women's clubs and other groups concerning West Virginia's artistic resources.

THINGS I DO NOT UNDERSTAND

Dick Hanlon



Every winter I write myself notes about topics for articles for the upcoming year's newsletters. As usual, it is time for the first article of the year and I cannot find my notes. March, with the exception of a few days, has been cold and dry. Not much growth on my roses, so I have been slow in doing any work on them as yet. The only rose work I have done is adding ground agriculture limestone and 10-10-10 fertilizer to each rose. I have peeked under the mulch on a few roses to see if any life exists. The ones I have looked at appear to have some green canes.



I have been using my weed eater with a serrated blade to attack multiflora roses growing along the edges of the property across the creek behind the house. I am winning the war but the roses have won some of the battles leaving bloody scratches on my hands. Multiflora roses are fantastically healthy and grow with vigor. It only takes about two growing seasons for them to overtake the non-mowed area of almost any field. The canes on some of these pests are at least one inch in diameter and ten feet in length.

A Master Gardener class was started the first week in March in Kanawha County; I am taking the class one night a week for ten weeks. The class conflicts with our Tuesday meetings-- hopefully the rose meeting will last long enough for me to arrive late and attack the dessert table. It appears that the Kanawha County Commission is going to delete its share of the County Extension Agency budget which amounts to about \$85,000. A new Extension Agent was just hired about a month ago; he set up the class which has about 30 people in it. Hopefully the new agent will not get discouraged and leave in a short time like the last few agents this County hired.



Roses are starting to appear at a number of locations in the area. All the roses I have seen so far are wrapped in plastic packaging and have been waxed. Probably not the best plants for purchase because the roots have been trimmed to fit the package. If you are going to purchase roses locally, go to the garden stores (TerraSalis, Stadler's, Green's, etc.) in the area. The roses may cost a little more but will have a much better chance of growing into fine rose bushes.

Each month, I am going to steal a “Thought for the Month” from Howard Walters who wrote a monthly column in the American Rose Magazine. “Roses do for living what sunshine does for stained glass.”

IN THE GARDEN (and around the District)

From the Maryland Rose Society Newsletter



When should winter protection be removed from roses?

The primary consideration is not to remove winter protection material too soon. If there are warm days in March, especially if some new growth is present on our plants, the tendency is to remove the material we have used to protect our plants during the winter. The danger, of course, is that without this protection, a late, unexpected cold spell, especially one attended by cold winds, can do irreparable damage to the plants. There are those who believe that a greater percentage of “over-winter mortality incidents” result from premature removal of winter protection than from the ravages of the entire winter.

Remember that spring does not officially begin until March 20; therefore, you should be looking at a time after that date when there is reasonable probability that your roses will still be protected in the event of a very cold and windy turn in the weather. Even though the last frost date is in early May, I have found that early April (the first two weeks) is generally the right time.

One other word of caution involves how you remove the material. Special care should be exercised. It should be removed gradually over a period of a week or ten days, being careful not to break off any new growth from the crown which, if undisturbed, will develop into a new cane(s) that will bear foliage and subsequent blooms. As the canes mature, you may wish to protect them further by staking them with a soft tie of some sort. A piece of an old nylon stocking is perfect for this purpose. Soft twine can be used also.

From the Tidewater Rose Society Newsletter

For members that are going to pot roses, especially minis, here is Howard Jones’ “**Witches Brew**”:

- 2 parts real top soil
- 1 part crushed pine bark
- 1 part perlite
- 1 part peat moss

Howard says: “One cannot ask for a better potting mix. I use this not only for potting for also for amending my soil. If you want to add other ingredients to this recipe go ahead. I like to add mushroom compost.”

From the Arlington Rose Foundation & Potomac Rose Society Newsletter

For hybrid teas, floribundas, repeat blooming OGRs, and most shrubs, the general advice is that if one wants a pretty garden display with a larger number of smaller blooms, one prunes to about three to four feet. If one wants a smaller number of larger blooms, such as for rose shows, then prune harder--down to about 18 inches to two feet. Eliminate dead and spindly stems. After the cut is made, if you notice that the cross-section is discolored or has a mushy nature, cut lower.

Continuous-blooming climbers usually have the main canes laid out horizontally or in an arching pattern to encourage vertical laterals to form from bud eyes on these canes, and flowers bloom on the laterals. This approach yields a “wall of color.” To prune when climber canes are laid out this way, cut back the vertical laterals even with the main canes or a few inches above.

For once-blooming OGRs, remove any dead wood or crossing branches. Then trim lightly, but do not prune severely or you will have no blooms. Once-blooming roses are pruned after they bloom--say in late June or July.

For all classes of roses, use sharp pruning shears. Rub with steel wool to remove rust. Sharpen blades on a cutting stone. Add oil if needed. To discourage the small carpenter bee from drilling down the center of the cane, seal the cut by squirting a dab of Elmer’s Glue-All on the cane’s end.

(I prefer Elmer’s Outdoor Wood Glue. It’s the only one that doesn’t seem to cause much dieback, doesn’t wash off like some, and blends in with the color of the pith.--John Fleek)

TOP EXHIBITION ROSES

The following list is a rating of the top exhibition roses in West Virginia rose shows over the past ten years. There were 20 shows during that period. In the hybrid tea class, the top four remained the same. *Dublin* got back on the list at number 5. *Keepsake* dropped out and *Let Freedom Ring* and *Gemini* appeared on the list. In the miniatures, *Arcanum* moved up to number one. There was very little change other than that. This year I am listing the top four mini-floras since they have had their own category for four years now. There was no change in the top three. As always, the scoring system gives four points for a queen, three for a king, etc. The number of Queens is in parenthesis.

<u>Hybrid Teas</u>	<u>Miniatures</u>	<u>Mini-Floras</u>
1. <i>Moonstone</i> (2) 27	1. <i>Arcanum</i> (3) 17	1. <i>Lady E’Owyn</i> (2) 11
2. <i>Veterans’ Honor</i> (2) 16	2. <i>Irresistible</i> (2) 15	2. <i>Class of 73</i> (1) 9
3. <i>Lynn Anderson</i> (3) 15	2. <i>Fairhope</i> (3) 15	3. <i>Cachet</i> (2) 8
4. <i>Helen Naudé</i> (3) 13	2. <i>Soroptimist International</i> (2) 15	4. <i>Tiffany Lynn</i> 7
5. <i>Dublin</i> 9	2. <i>Nancy Jean</i> 15	
6. <i>Secret</i> (1) 8	6. <i>Linville</i> (1) 8	
7. <i>Touch of Class</i> (1) 8	6. <i>Miss Flippins</i> (1) 8	
8. <i>Let Freedom Ring</i> (1) 8	8. <i>Sis</i> 7	
9. <i>Gemini</i> 8	8. <i>Sweet Caroline</i> 7	

Moonstone



Arcanum



Lady E’Owyn

