

# Ramblin' Rose "Outtakes"

## The Charleston Rose Society

*A Member of the Colonial District*



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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](http://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.



courtesy Weeks Roses

### ROSE OF THE MONTH

*Marilyn Monroe*

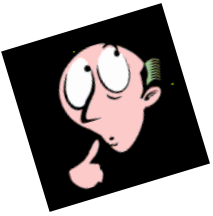
Even though she's not a single, the beautiful *Marilyn Monroe* is still my favorite color of rose, apricot. Just one look at Steve and Lynda Grass' Princess of Show at our June rose show would make you fall for this well-named girl. I have this rose and she has done very well in my garden and my neighbors always comment on her beauty. *Marilyn Monroe* was bred by Tom Carruth in 2001; she has about 30 to 35 petals and gets a nice large bloom with a high exhibition center, and has a garden rating of 7.9. Occasionally I will pick up a mild citrus fragrance, sometimes none. Her blooms are borne mostly solitary, so not a lot of disbudding is required and the medium green foliage seems to be pretty disease resistant. *Marilyn* is a cross between *Sunset Celebration* and *St. Patrick*, so she comes from good genes.

I really recommend this rose even though she is a little winter tender, but I know all you *guys* would love having *Marilyn Monroe* in your bed!

*Donna Smoot*



courtesy  
official Marilyn Monroe website



## **THINGS I DO NOT UNDERSTAND**

*Dick Hanlon*

Picnic revisited: A few items to clear up confusing information I gave at the picnic. The vine which is climbing up the deck is hyacinth bean; not sure why I said castor bean. Peter assisted in determining the correct vine. I will have a huge supply of beans to plant next year, so I will make them available to anyone who may want them. The marigolds are a yellow non-hybrid plant; the seeds were distributed at the Master Gardener class. I have been saving and drying the seeds. I will make the seeds available to anyone who may want them next year. I also found a green canvas folding chair which goes into its own carrying case. I will bring it to the September meeting.

In a number of past articles, I have said that the “big” rose producers will determine what roses are available. I alluded to the apparent emphasis on easy care, shrub and ground cover types of roses. The recent ARS magazine had a section on 2010 new rose introductions; the “big” guys--Weeks, Conard-Pyle and Jackson & Perkins were represented in this paid advertisement. I assume if you pay to advertise a rose, it is a rose you are stressing in your sales department. 38 roses were introduced in this section. Only 3 were hybrid teas while 9 were ground cover or low-growing roses. Does this situation not indicate that hybrid tea roses might be being phased out of the “big” guy’s product line?

A bigger more fundamental question seems to me is the future role of ARS in the growing of roses. Do we need a society to teach us how to grow ground cover roses? Will we soon have the Queen of Show include ground cover roses? I guess ground cover roses fit the high-low category perfectly. I am being somewhat facetious in this matter but it bothers me greatly that the rose industry is changing direction. It is becoming nearly impossible to purchase miniature roses; many of the firms we have bought roses from are no longer in business. As miniatures become more difficult to obtain by rosarians such as members of rose societies, how in the world will everyday gardeners find them for purchase? It looks like a *Knockout* world.

The two paragraphs above look like Chicken Little and the sky is falling, but it is a fact that the ARS is losing members at a rapid pace. I believe the “big” guys have decided that to stay in business they must provide roses that do not require much effort to grow. The hardcore rosarian will continue to find hybrid teas, miniatures and floribundas, but new growers are going to buy what they find locally. If we remember John Fleek’s talk last year, he found local sale outlets were selling what the “big” guys provided to them. This week I saw *Knockout* roses (\$19.00) for sale at Kroger and *Knockout* tree roses (\$43.00) for sale at the Farmers Market.

## **THIS AND THAT**

### **Lynda Grass**

Our garden has been productive this summer and my canning season is over until later this year when apples come into season. We will be savoring fresh green beans in a couple of weeks, however; how good they will be this late in the season! And I know a sweet lady in South Charleston who is waiting for the green peppers that still remain on the bushes (stop drooling, Donna!). Steven will be tilling up the garden and putting it to bed before too long, and the foam box for the potted roses will be put in place. He will be talking about that form of winter protection for potted roses in November--I hope you can come to the meeting to hear and see his program.



The rose beds are in various stages since we have rose shows on the 20th in Huntington and on 25th in Richmond. Steven pruned for both shows and we have a great deal of new growth in the beds at this time. However, some of the bushes will have bloomed out before the Huntington show. It's the way of things--you and Mother Nature are always at odds to make things come together for a rose show.

We've fought powdery mildew all year long, and it's still evident on many of our roses. Blackspot is also a constant pest. Unfortunately we also have anthracnose because of an American dogwood in our neighbor's yard. It is beginning to die of the disease, but for Steven, it's not going along fast enough. Until it's gone, anthracnose will be a visitor in our front rose beds.

The lower portions of our roses are bare--leaves have yellowed and fallen to the ground, and those that didn't have been pulled off and discarded to try to slow the spread of blackspot. Steven sprays routinely but blackspot inevitably takes over the beds this time of year. As he pruned for the Huntington show he also pulled leaves, so it looks like it does early in spring before the roses first start producing. The folks in the neighborhood just think that it's the way it's supposed to be, and I'm not telling them any different! The poles and milk jugs came out this weekend to protect the blooms from rain and dew. Our neighbors have become wise to the pattern, and now they don't ask, "What in the world are you doing?"!

We've also discovered that our rose beds have become a digging ground for *something*. I was sure it was squirrels--we have an abundance of them--and often find peanuts buried throughout the beds and pots. It's been getting cooler, and they're beginning to store for the winter. The ground beneath *Denali*, *Fountain Square*, *Gemini*, *Cliché*, *Lynnette*, and even one large pot had been scooped out, down to the roots on some. It was so bad around *Denali* (two sides to the roots) that I put bricks on the ground under the bush to keep them from coming back and spread cayenne pepper over the beds in the back yard (none have been disturbed out front). My husband has spoken often about acquiring a BB gun!



But now I'm not sure if I'm accusing the right culprits after talking with Donna Smoot. An avid birder, she told me that the larger birds will also do that, looking for worms and other food in the beds. We have many robins,



cardinals, grackles, and doves in our area, and often see them in the yard. The large-scale digging stopped after the cayenne pepper, but I have noticed a number of smaller holes over the past few days. Perhaps we have a competition going--the squirrels looking for the nuts they buried during the year and the birds looking for food, or perhaps the birds watching the squirrels bury nuts and then going in to retrieve for themselves. I guess I shouldn't complain; we don't have deer (at least not yet).

The Huntington show will be held on Sunday, September 20. Please take the time to see if you have roses to exhibit, or at least go to the Huntington Mall and look at the roses. Huntington's Society is small like ours and depends on everyone to bring their roses. Gary and Monica and some of the other Huntington members support the Charleston show and we should reciprocate if at all possible.

We will be going to Richmond on September 25 for the Colonial District fall show and meeting. I'm not sure how many roses we'll be taking, but I would imagine it will be mostly minis. We've never quite gotten the hang of transporting the large roses in coolers. Besides that, I don't want to have to secure Donna up on the luggage rack because there's no room in the van!



Our program this month is, "My Favorite Things". Please bring something that you particularly like to use, whether it was bought from a store or some implement that you made that helps you in your rose garden, and tell the members all about it!

Our "Ugliest Rose" contest will also be a part of the meeting. Steven won the beautiful plate last year (even though he wasn't at the meeting!!!), and it will be up for grabs on Tuesday night. I'm sure that everyone will want to compete for this lovely prize (I just hope that I can find where I stuffed--excuse me--stored it). Look over your garden and bring the worst thing that you can find--diseased, vegetative centers, bug eaten, whatever--and the members will vote to choose the best of the ugliest.



I want to offer a big thank you to Dick Hanlon for opening his home and garden for our garden party in August. Everyone that came had a great time, and the weather was absolutely outstanding after being humid and hot earlier in the week.

Come to the meeting and bring a friend. It will be wonderful to see everyone after the summer months.

## ***IN THE GARDEN***

***John Fleek***

*Reprinted from the September 2006 Ramblin' Rose, newsletter of the Charleston Rose Society, John Fleek, Editor.*

## **September reminders**

1. Pruning for new growth should be discontinued by mid-September. Any new growth will be damaged by November frosts as it begins to form buds.

2. Continue your spray program for blackspot and powdery mildew. We're not out of the woods until it really starts cooling down.



3. Continue to water if Mother Nature doesn't cooperate. The roses are still growing and need moist soil to receive nutrients.

4. By the time you receive the newsletter, you should only be fertilizing with non-nitrogen fertilizers (0-10-10, etc). Nitrogen promotes new growth and at this time of the year, we only want to strengthen canes and root systems.

5. Be on the alert for insects such as cucumber beetles. If insects are "bugging you out," break out the Malathion or other low toxicity (Caution label) insecticides and give them a blast.



6. Instead of pruning back the spent blooms, just pull off the petals. This helps signal the plant not to produce new growth.

7. Start looking at the catalogs that are coming in, make notes at the rose show of interesting roses, and decide which bushes need to be replaced and how many new ones you can manage. Do this while you're still thinking about roses. Once cold weather hits, you begin to think of things other than roses. Suddenly spring is here and you aren't ready.



8. Remove roses that you no longer want in the fall and replace the soil. Get as many of the old roots out as possible. Many times new roses planted in old holes do not do well and by giving the hole 6 months to adjust before planting a new bush seems to help it do better.