



THE NOVUS NEWSLETTER  
OF THE  
THE TIDEWATER ROSE SOCIETY  
APRIL 2009



## “MAKE IT GROW SO YOU CAN SHOW”

The third meeting of the Tidewater Rose Society’s Seventy-fourth year will be held at the Norfolk Botanical Garden, Sunday at 2:30 p.m., April 19, 2009, in the Holly Room of Baker Hall. Peggy Scott will give a presentation on fertilizers.

### Tidewater Rose Society 2009 Officers

President:  
Peggy Scott

First Vice President:  
Michael Price

Second Vice President:  
Happy Anderson

Treasurer:  
Patricia Wilson

Recording Secretary:  
Eveline Price

Corresponding Secretary:  
Claudia Green

Executive Board  
\*Continuing for 2<sup>nd</sup> year

Gayle Chene  
Cathy Daley\*  
Donald Snipes  
George Sutcliffe\*  
Diana Tase  
Stephen Tase  
George Wilson\*  
Tony Wirtz\*

Immediate Past President  
Howard E. Jones

**COUNTRY STORE NEWS:** Those of you that ordered Fish Emulsion, Easy Feed, Mills Magic and 20-20-20, we will have those products at this meeting for you to pick up. We will also have Felco Pruners, saws, name tags & stakes, etc. We will have some door prizes.

See you at the meeting,

George

### From the President’ Desk

“Make It Grow So You Can Show’. We have members who think that they do not show their roses. I guess they grow them in the back corners of their yard with eight foot fences around them. Whether you enter a rose show or not you are always showing your roses as they grow. People notice and enjoy seeing roses growing everywhere. Let’s talk about what to put on them to make them perform at their best. Let’s look at how to a show a rose. Let’s look at some different fertilizers and talk about how much and how often to use them. These are some of the things we will be doing at our April meeting. Bring a friend and join in the growing of good roses.

Peggy

## THE COLONIAL DISTRICT PRE-SPRING MEETING

The Tidewater Rose Society and the Virginia Peninsula Rose Society put on a very successful “Pre-Spring Meeting” and showed a profit as well. This was a major undertaking since the event was held over three hours away in Staunton, Va. We started collecting donations in December for the auction and raffle. Several members from each society donated items. (My grandchildren are very happy to have all the items removed from their bedrooms.) We had 95 baskets and items and I had a blast grouping items and designing baskets for the auction. Mike and Eve Price designed the cover for our program and it looked first class. Lydia Simpson did a wonderful job with the nametags and she and Virginia Kostyal had the responsibility of registering the attendees. David and Terry Cottrell made up all the welcome bags (David and Terry donated the bags and all the items in the bags). George Wilson gathered all the raffle items and made all the hotel arrangements and allowed me to pester him constantly without yelling. Elizabeth Mangino (her brother owns Ashdown Roses) and Sunni Burns drove to South Carolina to get the roses donated to the auction and delivered them to Staunton. When we arrived in Staunton everyone pitched in to help set up the auction. Cathy Daley was a great asset filling out sheets, taping up rose numbers and moving items around. The Arlington Rose Foundation donated roses as well as Almost Heaven Roses and Ashdown Roses for our live auction. Joy Long provided great speakers for the educational seminars and for Friday and Saturday nights; Jolene Adams and Bob Martin, they are both seeking the position of Vice President, American Rose Society, gave excellent presentations. A “**BIG THANK YOU**” to everyone who made our event successful. It is always nice when people step up to help you succeed.

Peggy Scott

**CONGRATULATIONS TERRY AND DAVID COTTRELL:** At the Pre-Spring Meeting in Staunton, Va., on March 14, the “Wheeler H. McFadden Service Award Plaque” was presented to Terry and David for outstanding service to the Colonial District. For several years, Terry and David consolidated the information submitted with the Consulting Rosarian Reports that provide accurate data for the following year’s “Handbook for Selecting Roses.” Thank you Terry and David, for a job well done!

Article written by Lydia Simpson  
Editor, Virginia Peninsula Rose Society

**THE MAY MEETING:** If you have not started a spraying program or some kind of disease preventative measures, now is the time to start. Howard Jones will be presenting a lecture on spraying: Starting a scheduled spray program and the materials available for use. The Novice Rose competition will be held at this meeting. Members wishing to participate should have their entries ready for judging no later than 2:15p.m. Entries will be judged during the program and the winners announced at the end of the meeting.

**JUNE MEETING:** Will be our annual picnic.

**Numerology: The Business of Roses** Know what's a blooming big business? Roses! And while you may not love Valentine's Day, flower people do—it's the busiest day of their year. Here's a look at this fragrant industry, with an assist from Douglas Brenner and Stephen Scanniello's new book, *A Rose by Any Name*. —Kate Rockwood



**TIDBITS:** Liz Mangino's brother owns Ashdown Roses and he has put together a new website on YOUTUBE TITLED "Roses Are Plants Too" at [www.youtube.com/ashdownroses](http://www.youtube.com/ashdownroses). Ashdown is also offering the Delbard Rose "Grayson Rose" as a charity rose. For every rose that is purchased 40% will go to the March of Dimes. For more information go to [www.ashdownroses.com/index.asp?PageAction=VIEWPROD&prodID=2800&HS=1](http://www.ashdownroses.com/index.asp?PageAction=VIEWPROD&prodID=2800&HS=1)

## WELCOME NEW AND RETURNING MEMBERS

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### **REFRESHMENTS FOR MARCH MEETING PROVIDED BY:**

#### **POETRY & PROSE**

Selected by Pat Wilson

Advice from a garden

Cultivate lasting friendship  
Sow seeds of kindness,  
Listen to Sage advice,  
Don't let the little things Bug you  
Be outstanding in your field,  
Take Thyme for yourself,  
No vining.

Annette Chase  
Gayle Chene  
Peggy Scott  
Eve Price  
Liz Mangino  
Diana Tase  
Gayle Donovan  
Bunny Fenn  
Cathy Daley

Murder by Roundup  
By Maryjane Roe

“It takes very little spray drift to affect any plant and since Roundup is a nonspecific poison, it will damage or kill anything it comes in contact with.”

--Jack Shoultz, SDRS Consulting Rosarian

You may not be aware of the dangers of using the commonly applied weed killer Roundup™ anywhere near your rose garden. This article is to alert everyone to the potential damage that you can inadvertently cause to your rose bushes with just one squirt of the deadly weed killer. In Victoria Paris's rose garden in San Diego, the roses are precious, gifts from friends and family, some transported from a former home. Last year's season produced spectacular growth and beautiful blooms. But this spring something changed. After the first bloom, which was magnificent, she noticed that the new growth (leaves and shoots) became stunted and weak. The red leaves turned pale and yellowish; the rose buds were tiny and discolored. They had installed a new irrigation system so her first thought was that she had been over watering. Next, she noticed that the buds that did open were malformed and of a different color.

The 'Ronald Reagan' rose, usually a deep velvety red on a long stem, was opening up miniature in size, pinkish and on a very short stem. 'Veterans' Honor' was losing its leaves, the roses weren't opening and the leaves, once green, were now very dirty yellow. Horrified when all the new growth was stunted, leaves were yellowish and curled, and the new blooms were either not opening or opening small and discolored, she decided a call of distress was in order. She wrote to the San Diego Rose Society.

When Jack Shoultz, SDRS Consulting Rosarian, arrived to have a look, Victoria told him that her gardener had sprayed the grass but had assured her that there would not be any danger of damage to the roses. Jack saw the characteristic spiky needlelike growth of the new leaves and produced the disheartening diagnosis: murder by Roundup. The poison had apparently worked its way into the soil or drifted onto the roses. Because the consensus was to try to save the roses rather than to replace them, Jack recommended an organic approach that would push the roses to develop their own defenses. This entailed removing all the affected leaves and new growth, then treating the soil with EnviroGrow™, mixing in 2 cups of Biosol organic fertilizer, and spraying the bushes with WORMagic® tea.

Victoria wasn't the first to experience the horror of losing roses to Roundup. SDRS Consulting Rosarian Sue Streeper reports that the rose society receives many calls of distress from people who have unintentionally destroyed or damaged their roses by using herbicides. Victor and Janet Lipp had been exhibiting roses for two or three years and were well aware of the dangers of getting Roundup on any living plant. Janet had a backpack sprayer that she had previously filled with a solution of Roundup to kill some weeds. Thinking that if she cleaned the sprayer carefully she could still use it to spray the roses, she vigorously scrubbed it with soap and water. Janet told Rose Ramblings, “I couldn't have cleaned it more carefully... I re-washed and re-rinsed. I poured

scalding water in the sprayer. I let it dry completely in the sun, hoping all traces of the poison would be made inert. When I was finally satisfied that all was OK, I mixed my spray solution, filled the tank and went to work.” The eagerly awaited first bloom of the year was less than spectacular. The blooms appeared split and feathery, more like a chrysanthemum than a velvety petaled rose, and the leaves had yellowed.

I, too, had Roundup damage in my garden a couple of years ago. It was my own doing. I was spraying liberally for weeds among the rocks that were in the nearby landscaping and there was often a slight wind. I didn’t know that the spray, even the smallest droplet, could travel. I did lose one rose that year and I didn’t immediately realize what the problem was, but I began to suspect that Roundup had been the cause when another bush nearby developed the same symptoms and was barely surviving.

Roundup (active ingredient glyphosate) can drift offsite during applications and, studies show that from 14-78% of it can go as far as 1300 feet downwind. Research discloses that although Roundup may remain in the soil for up to a year, it is bound to soil particles and is not picked up by the roots. Therefore, no special soil treatment is needed to remedy its effects. A recent article in the American Rose suggested that symptoms of damage from Roundup may not even appear during the season of application. Furthermore, a few droplets drifting onto mulch can even cause green canes to be exposed when the mulch is brushed against them.

Roses are amazingly hardy, however. This spring my own bush that had been damaged by Roundup was back blooming and relatively healthy again. After taking to heart Jack Shoultz’s advice, Victoria Paris’s roses are mostly coming back, and the second new growth is looking better. She may still, however, lose one or two bushes. Says Victoria, ‘I have been kicking myself....I listened to the gardener and in retrospect, shouldn’t have. I understand my garden better than anyone.’ Fortunately, the Lipps didn’t lose any bushes and by the second or third bloom, the roses were back on track. “We all learn from our mistakes,” Janet told Rose Ramblings. “I hope I can save someone from making the same mistake that I made.”

Beware of Roundup!

- If you have a gardener working in your rose garden, clarify with that person that Roundup is NEVER to be used on or near the roses.
- Be aware that drifting spray of Roundup used elsewhere in the garden is lethal to roses. If it must be used somewhere, the wind must be totally still (early in the morning is best, and it still is not a great idea).
- Figure out a method of benign weed control. Prepare the soil well in a large area around the roses. Mulch deeply at least once a year. Pull or dig weeds when they are tiny.
- If you must use an herbicide, dedicate one sprayer for that use only.
- Use a pre-emergent seed control on top of the soil in a clean bed before weeds come up. The pre-emergents will not hurt the roses and they prevent weed seeds from germinating.

(This article originally appeared in a slightly altered form in Rose Ramblings, San Diego Rose Society in August, 2008, Manny Belandres, editor.)

## WHY JOIN THE AMERICAN ROSE SOCIETY?

Members of local rose societies will have an added benefit by joining the American Rose Society in two ways:

(1) By supporting the American Rose Society, not only are you supporting the national society but also the district society and your own local society. Each one is interdependent on each other for a healthy, viable organization of people that enjoy growing roses. At our past Colonial District Meeting, exhibitor-hybridizer John Smith made a great statement: "If you want to learn to exhibit roses, rose exhibitors are the only people that will teach you how to beat them". This also applies to people that do not want to exhibit but to grow roses for their own self-satisfaction.

(2) The Magazine of the American Rose Society gives all members timely information concerning the growing of roses, new products available and the availability of old and new variety of roses from around the world.

The following excerpt from an article written by Jill Barnard, **Fertilizers: When and How**, that appeared in the American Rose Society Magazine, American Rose, explains two fertilizing programs for the person that just likes to grow roses:

**‘WHEN TO START FERTILIZING ESTABLISHED BUSHES:** Immediately after pruning, incorporate organic amendments into the soil. As the soil warms with the weather, the organics will start to break down and supply a slow release nutritional diet to your roses, as well as feeding the soil micro-organisms. A basic recipe would include, per bush: (Editor’s Note: Mills Magic or Espoma Plant Tone may be substituted)

1 cup bone meal  
1 cup cotton seed meal  
½ cup blood meal  
½ cup fish meal  
½ cup Epsom salts (magnesium sulphate)

Water thoroughly first, then spread the ingredients evenly around the bush, under the drip-line (outer perimeter) of the bush. Scratch lightly into the top 1-2” of soil and water well again. In warm climates with long growing seasons (January-February pruning and blooms through November-December), a second application is beneficial in Early September for fall bloom cycles.

About two to three weeks after spring pruning and adding organic amendments, new growth will appear. Chemical fertilizers, whether liquid or dry, can be applied at this time, and will provide an instant food source for this heavy feeding period. How often to apply is a subjective decision, based on the amount of time and devotion you have, but once a month should be the minimum. First, let’s determine your style:

**CASUAL ROSE GROWER:** You like to look at roses from your window, but don’t know the varietal names and only cut a few for the house. Your best bet would be a granular food with an N-P-K of about 10-10-10, applied every four weeks according to directions. Fish emulsion applied as a liquid fertilizer when

buds are about pea-size (about three weeks before each bloom cycle) will enhance bloom color. Add chelated iron for rich green foliage. In hot climates, reduce the amount of fertilizer applied by half during June July and August, but stay on the same 4-week frequency. Don't overlook the semi-annual dose of amendments!

**DEDICATED GARDENER:** Realizing roses require a steady source of food, and having the time to supply it, you are willing to adopt a bi-weekly fertilizer program for the big blooms. Start with an application of granular food as first growth appears in spring. Then begin a program of liquid fertilizers, alternating the following on a two-week basis:

Peters, Grow More or Verdi-sol: (all 20-20-20)

Fish Emulsion (5-1-1)

Green-Up, Deep Feed or Pentrex: (soil penetrant, fertilizers and iron, 16-4-2)

Epsom Salts (magnesium sulfate)

Apply according to package directions, usually 1Tbsp per gallon, 2 gallons per bush. Add Epsom Salts at ¼ Cup per bush, either dissolved in the liquid feeding or sprinkled straight from the package onto the soil. A periodic dose of iron chelate added to the fertilizer may be required for deep green foliage.”

May you all have a great season growing and enjoy your roses!

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Hybrid Tea – Peace

**Tidewater Rose Society**

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