



NEWSLETTER

of the

VIRGINIA PENINSULA ROSE SOCIETY

President – Sandy Pait
First Vice President – Robert Little
Editor – Lydia Simpson

April/May 2009



visit our website "www.vprs.org"

Meeting Dates 2009:

APR 26
MAY 16/17 - Rose Show
JUN - Picnic
SEP 6
OCT 4
NOV 1
DEC 6

2009 Meeting Hosts

Apr 26-Cottrell
Sep 6-Dick, Harper
Oct 4-Kostyal, Simpson
Nov 1-Lilygren, Tully

2009 Officers

President - Sandy Pait
1st VP/Programs - Robert Little
2nd VP/Membership - Alice Little
Recording Secretary: Stacey Olson
Corresponding Secretary: Lita Dick
Treasurer: Lydia Simpson

2009 Directors

Joy Long, Marti Youmans
David Cottrell, Terry Cottrell
Cathy Allsbrook, Dick Parsell

Honorary Directors

Janet Kosidlak, Helen Hill,
Virginia Kostyal, Annemarie Parker

**Two roses on a slender
spray in sweet
communion grow,
together hailed the
morning sun and drunk
the evening dew.**

Montgomery

Rose Sale

Bob Little will sell **Roses**
(HT, FL, GR) for \$9 at the
CNU Garden Symposium,
and at our next meeting on
April 26. The varieties are:
**Tiffany, Touch of Class,
Climbing Queen
Elizabeth, Sonia, Mister
Lincoln, Iceberg.**

The next VPRS meeting is scheduled for **Sunday, April 26, 2009**, at 'The Woman's Club of Newport News'. Please join us to share rose information, refreshments and fellowship. Feel free to ask questions and bring a friend.

Directions from I-64: Take Exit 258 A – Route 17 West / J Clyde Morris Blvd. Follow J. Clyde Morris Blvd. crossing Jefferson Ave. The Virginia Living Museum is on your left before the bridge. The entrance to the Woman's Club, a one-story brick building, is to your right at the next traffic light, directly across from Riverside Hospital The garden will be on your right.

April 26, 2009

2:00pm
3:00pm

Board Meeting
"Anticipating the Show....." by Dick Parsell

Refreshments provided by Joan Harper and Lita Dick

From the President's Desk:

IT'S SHOW TIME!!!! We have all been working hard to make this the best show ever. I just don't know what Mother Nature is doing out there! As I work in the garden, it seems that we are very far behind because of the cool weather. We may have different varieties blooming this year because of it. I just spent 5 days in South Carolina and coming home really made me realize how far behind we are. They are also experiencing a cooler spring but many of their roses are blooming. We shall see.

We hope to have the show schedule on the web site the same time this newsletter goes out. Please check it out so you can plan ahead. We had such a nice program on designs at the last meeting; I hope you all will enter the design classes. It is such a great learning experience and I'd love to see what creative arrangements other people can do. Please join in this year.

See you all Sunday, April 26!

Sandy

From the Rose Show Chairman, Dick Parsell:

ANTICIPATING THE SHOW --- Finally, after some much-needed rain, warmer days have arrived and the roses are taking off. From the first bloom of spring we are always at the mercy of the weather for the timing of our roses for the May show. Last year, many were bloomed out by show time so we're hoping for better results this year.

Reminder to all of us: Bring plenty of extra blooms so we can present a great show for the community at Patrick Henry Mall. Extra blooms will be sold in individual vases. Continue with your disbudding, spraying program, plenty of water and one more fertilizing with your own secret formula to produce those big beautiful blooms. This will be our last meeting before the Rose Show even though it is a week earlier than usual. Please come so we can go over assignments, register for the show, bring those trophies you are donating, receive this year's beautiful 61st show schedule, and learn something else about growing roses. If the schedule is not ready for handing out at the meeting, it will be on our web site. Again, I'll say for the new folks, if you have never tried showing roses, please let this be the year to begin---try it once and you will get the bug. Remember to mark your calendar for Friday the 15th of May for set up at the Mall at 8:45PM. See ya' at the April 26th meeting.

Rosy Dates to Remember:

Any articles, committee reports, or notices you wish to be included in the newsletter, must be submitted to the Editor by the 15th of the month.

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May 9, 2009 - Eastern North Carolina Rose Society 10th Annual Rose Show, New Bern, NC, Contact: Mary Snyder 252-223-4128, marysnyder@ec.rr.com

May 16 and 17, 2009 – VPRS Rose Show, Patrick Henry Mall, Newport News, VA, contact: Dick Parsell, 757-850-2765 or e-mail osagefarm@cox.net

May 30 and 31, 2009 - Arlington Rose Foundation Annual Rose Show, Merrifield Garden Center, Fairfax, VA, Contact: David Maxwell 703-860-0071, djmaxwell007@yahoo.com

June 18 - 24, 2009 - World Rose Federation Convention 2009 and ARS Spring National Convention and Rose Show, Vancouver, BC, Contact: Karen Massicotte, 604-984-6449, karen@seatoskymetings.com, www.worldrose-vancouver2009.com

October 3 and 4, 2009 – Potomac Rose Society Fall Rose Show, Merrifield Garden Center, Fairfax, VA, Contact Kathryn George, 301-869-4948, kay.george@verizon.net

November 11 - 15, 2009 - ARS Fall National Convention and Rose Show, Desert Rose Society, Palm Springs, CA, Contact: Cliff Orent, cliff@clifforent.com; Hal Reynolds, Bob Martin, petrose@aol.com

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TRS Member Liz Maningo's brother owns Ashdown Roses; she writes: My brother has started a series of short videos on YouTube titled "Roses Are Plants Too". They cover everything from introduction to roses, pruning, and "how to pillar a rose. The link is <http://www.youtube.com/ashdownroses>.

GARDENING TIPS OF THE WEEK

from Marie Iannotti

What Causes the Most Problems in Your Garden? Insects, Disease, 4-Legged Pests or 2-Legged Pests. I'm surprised to see 4-legged pests leading the count, followed by insects. But I think I'm even more surprised how many votes 2-legged pests have gotten!

Isn't it amazing how the wildlife in the garden is so much better about eating their veggies than are our families? You never have to force a rabbit or deer to sit there until he's finished. Squirrels don't whine about being expected to eat "rabbit food". The groundhog never pouts that he doesn't like something. Maybe we're looking at it all wrong. Maybe we should be complimented that the wildlife appreciates our efforts and thinks we've done such a good job. Maybe.

Sprinkle your used tea leaves around the base of acid loving plants, including your tomatoes and roses. We've always known coffee grinds were good for plants, but tea leaves contain all the big three nutrients, N-P-K, as well as some trace minerals. Sprinkle the used leaves on the soil and gently scratch them in. Of course, you can also add tea leaves to your compost pile.

Carrots and parsnips take a long time to germinate and the seeds don't like to push up through compacted soil. Try covering the seed with perlite, instead of soil. The perlite will help keep the seeds moist without becoming compacted. Another trick is to plant quick maturing radishes mixed in with the carrots or parsnips. The radishes will sprout and mark the row as well as loosen the soil as they grow. They'll be harvested long before they can interfere with the growth of the carrots or parsnips.

Cleaning Containers with Small Openings: Purchase small nuts, washer and bolts that are made from stainless steel. Drop them into the container with liquid detergent and shake or swish. Pour out the soapy water and nuts, bolts and washer, rinse. When you rinse your container, it is clean. Keep these little scrubbers in a small container in your cabinets. It works very well. *Submitted by ~Bobbi*

FOR THE BEGINNER

by Dr. John Dickman

Q: What is the difference between potting soil and potting mix?

A: This is not an easy question to answer within the confines of a Q&A column because there is no standard definition for "soil" or "mix." Potting soil can vary from plain old dirt scooped out of the ground to a formulated mixture of manures and fertilizer nutrients. It is really not for potting at all. It is usually low in organic material and is better suited for leveling and filling in depressions in the lawn or as a good base for an outdoor garden bed. It is NOT recommended for use in containers. Potting mixes, on the other hand, are soil-less. They contain no constituents of soil, such as clay or sand. Potting mix is rich in such organics as sphagnum peat moss and composted bark and in perlite to make it lightweight, airy, and readily permeable to water and air. They too, are usually augmented with fertilizer nutrients. A potting mix should be used in containers. Read the label. Pesticides are not the only products to bear a label that should be heeded. The label will itemize the composition of the contents of the bag and will usually identify what the product is best suited for.

Q: Is it possible to take a cutting of an understock, such as '*Rosamultiflora*', bud something else onto it, then root it? Thus, rooting and budding could be accomplished at one time?

A: No, the understock must be rooted before a successful bud graft can be made. The purpose of the understock is to provide a ready-made root system. To bud onto an understock cutting, and expect it to root, is creating too much of a stressful situation. Either the cutting won't root or the bud won't survive, or both.

Consulting Rosarian Corner

Timing your Garden for a Rose Show

an article from the Raleigh Rose Society 2007 by John Sheldon, full time hybridizer for Sheldon Roses

You've made the decision to enter the rose show and think all you have to do now is water, fertilize, spray and wait until it's time to harvest the roses. Right? Well, not exactly. You will undoubtedly have roses at the time of the show but will they be the ones you want? You see, every variety has a general recycle time, the time from when it was last pruned until it blooms again. Some recycle as fast as 40-45 days, most a little longer 45-55 days and some take a long time to recycle 55+. Many factors contribute to the cycle time: the amount of water they received during the growing period, how much fertilizer they received, how many sunny days, temperature, the health of the plant, number of petals etc. Many of these variables are controllable especially the most important one, the cut date. Not the date they are harvested but the date they were last cut prior to harvesting. Knowing that *First Prize* cycles fast, helps you know to start your "cut back" 40-45 days ahead of the show. For example, our Show this year will be held on June 2nd Rose, therefore, 45 days before June 2nd is April 18th so you would cut one cane from each *First Prize* bush on April 18th. On April 19th you would cut another one and so on for a week. If you only had a few bushes you could cut one cane every other day. This increases your chances of having a *First Prize* ready on the show date. Knowing *Uncle Joe*, has a long cycle time 55+ days, I would start to cut back much earlier. I would make my first cut on Uncle Joe 60 days before the show date. That would be April 4th and continue each day for the next week.

Now that we have the concept but how do we know how long it takes for each variety to recycle? A general rule of thumb is, the more petals a rose has the longer it takes to recycle. A better way to ensure you'll have the roses you want when you want them is to "time" your garden. While the exact number of days will always vary you can get a good idea of how long any given variety takes by timing it. The process is simple and goes like this. When you prune the rose take a piece of non-fading color-fast yarn (embroidery floss works even better) and tie it around the terminal leaflet of the first leaf just below where you made your cut. Then on a piece of paper write RED (meaning the color of the yarn used) and the date you used RED, in this case, July 17th. Continue to use RED that day for all the canes pruned regardless of variety. The next day switch to a different color of yarn, say BLUE. Then write down "July 18th, BLUE" indicating BLUE yarn was used for all the cuts made that day. And so forth for the next few weeks. A lot of people skip a day between prunings. Remember this is not an exact science. One of the most critical factors in determining recycle times is the degree of dormancy of the eye you prune to? A dormant eye could add well over a week to your time an eye already growing will recycle much faster. Ideally, each eye would be "plump" but not have started to grow yet. When you start harvesting the roses write down the name of the rose, color of the yarn and date it was harvested. To make it easier I write down the date at the top and then list all the roses harvested on that date with the color of the yarn beside their name. You can then calculate the exact number of days each cane of any given variety took to recycle in your garden. I like to throw out the longest and shortest times for each variety and then average the remaining times. This gives me a general idea of how many days ahead of next year's show date I need to cut back that variety to have blooms ready for the show. Good luck and I hope you all come away winners..

How is this foliar feeding stuff supposed to work?' How can the leaves absorb anything? We know that we have to spray on the top and the bottom of leaves to protect them. What's this all about?

excerpted from TenArKy Q&As

Interesting question. Before going any further, it must be clearly understood that foliar feeding is not meant to be a primary source of nutrients for the plant. It should be used as a supplement to a good general fertilizer program. That said, foliar feeding has been used for years by rosarians to give their bushes and blooms a little extra "umph" (good scientific term!) For years, botanists did not believe that nutrients could be taken up through the leaves. The leaf had no means of absorbing such materials. The only paths into the leaves were through the stomata and these were designed only for the transport of gases. Then, in the 1950s, Dr H. B. Tukey and S. H. Wittwer, both at Michigan State University, sprayed plants with radio-active phosphorus and potassium and tracked the movement through the plant with a Geiger counter. They were surprised at how much material was taken up and how quickly it moved through the plant. This breakthrough led to much more research and experimentation on foliar feeding. Foliar feeding can be very beneficial. A number of rosarians who grow outstanding blooms use a product called *Response*. This product is sold at the *Rosemania* site. The Response company gives a lot of detail about the product and its action on plants. I learned about foliar feeding from my Grandfather. He put a tablespoon of Sturdy in the sprayer whenever he sprayed fungicides or insecticides.

When Sturdy was no longer available, he started adding a tablespoon of MiracleGro for Roses in the sprayer. I have used fish emulsion or liquid kelp with good results. I have only added these products when spraying fungicides so it might be a good time to try a few sprayings with liquid kelp by itself and watch for results. One word of Caution: We always hear the admonition to make sure the plants are well watered before spraying chemicals, and that is no different with foliar feeding. The plants must be well hydrated or you may burn the leaves. Also, always apply nutrients in liquid form – leaves can only take up nutrients when they are in solution. Yes, foliar feeding will improve your roses, so it is worth a try. Do it over a bloom cycle and see if the expense and effort are worth it.

Rose of the Month



repeat throughout the growing season. The canes can gain a height of over 7' and in warmer areas of the country; I've seen it completely engulfing a garage. Here in Zone 5 of upstate New York, it happily climbs to well over 8' with very little winter protection and a moderate amount of support from a chain link fence.

The glossy dark foliage is disease resistant and it appears to tolerate slightly shady conditions as well. Be sure to give this little climber plenty of room and she will reward you with tons of bloom.

Jeanne Lajoie by Mary Peterson

The Little Mini That Could

Whether you pronounce the name 'Jeanie La Joy' or can twist your tongue around the French pronunciation of 'Jay nay laj Waugh' it all comes down to a plucky little pink climbing mini hybridized by E.P.Sima in 1975. He used ('Casa Blanca' x 'Independence') x 'Midget' in breeding this little beauty and in 1977, the ARS recognized it with the coveted Award of Excellence for Miniatures (AOE award).

The 1 inch slightly fragrant, high-centered flowers with close to 40 petals are borne in clusters as well as singly and the plant can



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American Rose Society certified Consulting Rosarians
with the objective to assist others in growing better roses

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Address Correction Requested

First Class Mail

Next meeting, April 26, 2009