



NEWSLETTER

of the

VIRGINIA PENINSULA ROSE SOCIETY

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

April 2009



visit our website “www.vprs.org”

Meeting Dates 2009:

APR 5
APR 26
MAY 16/17 - Rose Show
JUN – Picnic
SEP 6
OCT 4
NOV 1
DEC 6

2009 Meeting Hosts

Apr 5-Olson, Main, Morello
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

Roses by George Eliot

You love the roses – so do I. I wish the sky would rain down roses, as they rain from off the shaken bush. Why will it not? Then all the valley would be pink and white and soft to tread on. They would fall as light as feathers, smelling sweet; and it would be like sleeping and like waking, all at once!

The next VPRS meeting is scheduled for **Sunday, April 5, 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 5, 2009

2:00pm

Board Meeting

3:00pm

“Roses in the English Design” by Cynthia Naylor

Refreshments provided by Stacy Olson, Helen Main, Helen Morello

From the President’s Desk:

Don’t you just love Spring in Virginia... 35 degrees one day and then 72 degrees the next? My poor roses and are so confused, leaf out, stop, leaf out, stop !!!

I was very disappointed that we had to cancel our pruning clinic. It is a great way to help Carole and Wiley and introduce people to the “joy of roses.” We also missed a great opportunity to talk to potential members. The challenge is still for each member to bring in one new member this year.

We have great plans for our Rose Show in May. We hope that all of you can help us make this the best show ever. Dick Parsell is working very hard with all the committees. Please support this show; sponsor a trophy, be a patron, obtain an ad, sign up to work, and of course, enter you roses!!!

We had a great time at the Pre-Spring Meeting in Staunton. The workshops were wonderful and educational. We had a successful silent auction and raffle, thanks to all who contributed. The totals are not all in, but it looks like we even made some money!! A special thanks to the Tidewater Rose Society and all who attended, great job!!

See you April 5!.....Sandy

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!..

APRIL 5 IS DEADLINE FOR RENEWING YOUR 2009 MEMBERSHIP - PLEASE MAIL IT IN TODAY.

Rosy Dates to Remember:

Any articles, committee reports or notices you wish to have included in your 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@seatoskymeetings.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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From the Country Store

Spring is right around the corner. Think about getting a head start on your supplies for the rose garden and “Buy it for less” at the Country Store:

Mills Magic, 20lb bags

Mills Easy Feed, 1 gal

Fish Emulsion

Champion 20-20-20, 25lb

Call **George Wilson, 757-853-0621** or give him your order in person at the next Meeting.

GARDENING TIPS OF THE WEEK

from Marie Iannotti

Spring planting and mulching can make a garden look great in no time. Then the real work begins. Keeping a garden going is the true test of a gardening addict. Pinching, pruning, deadheading and shearing back is the mantra that keeps us all out there in search of a faded blossom and ragged leaf. Garden maintenance is how we get to know our gardens on an intimate level.

Plant a border of marigolds around your vegetable garden to deter rabbits. They don't like the scent and tend to avoid the area. Marigolds aren't as effective as a fence, but you'll be surprised as just how effective they are. And since rabbits will go under fences, they can be a second line of defense there, too.

Once you get the vegetable garden planted, it's almost impossible to be patient and wait for the bounty to come pouring in. One way to guarantee a plentiful harvest is to encourage bees and other pollinators into your garden. Few garden bees are aggressive, unless they feel threatened. Most are happy to share the garden with you.

Wrapping the lower stem of cabbages with a strip of aluminum foil will prevent cabbage fly larva from burrowing in.

Got milk? When you rinse out your milk cartons, use the water on your plants. A dilution of milk seems to improve the disease resistance of plants. The potassium phosphate in the milk revs the plant's immune system. And scientists have been conducting studies on milk's fungicide properties. It seems that a weak solution:

1 part milk to 5 to 10 parts water, sprayed on plant leaves every 7 - 10 days helps prevent powdery mildew and may help control other fungus problems, like black spot and rust. Don't use undiluted milk or you'll wind up causing problems, like sooty mold. And don't worry, it won't smell sour

FOR THE BEGINNER

Q: What do I need to do after I finish Pruning? (excerpted from an article by Dr. Karen Barnes)

A: Remove ALL pruning debris from the garden. Do NOT compost the branches or leave as mulch, as this will cause disease in healthy bushes. It is better to have the cut canes and leaves go with your yard waste for disposal in a landfill.

Some Rosarians like to seal the ends of cut canes with Elmer's white glue. It does not hurt to cover cuts with a dab of glue, but I've only ever done it if I couldn't get to the bottom of an insect's bore hole in hopes that it will contact the insect to slow down its progress.

Water freshly pruned bushes well and then spray with a fungicide. You can place a thick pad of wet newspaper on the ground around the bushes and cover with oak leaves or chipped bark mulch 3-4" deep to help maintain moisture during the summer months and discourage weeds. Avoid rocks or gravel which could change the pH of your soil.

It is a great idea to start a rose care calendar where you record when you did your pruning, spraying, fertilizing, watering, so you will develop your own reference for next year.

Q: What is the difference between a landscape rose and a shrub rose? I saw several and they are just beautiful and bloom all summer. The ones I saw are large bushes about five feet tall. Also, how would these be cut back in early spring along with all my other roses? (excerpted from an article by Dr. John T Dickman)

A: Shrub roses are landscape roses. Any plant that serves to enhance a landscape plan of property is a landscape plant. The wide variety of available colors and growth habits make shrub roses excellent landscaping plants and are becoming quite popular for that use. They are pruned only to the extent that dead and diseased wood is removed and to keep the bush within the desired size limits.

Consulting Rosarian Corner

How to Plant a Rose

from the archives of The Rose File

The prime rule is to read and follow the instructions of the supplier who shipped the rose. Frequently suppliers will provide very good instructions. Many will be better than those that follow. Moreover, suppliers may require that you follow their planting instructions in order for any warranties to apply.

Roses arrive either in pots or as bare-root plants. If they are in pots, they can be placed outdoors and watered for some time before planting. Bare root roses arrive in boxes with bits of peat to keep them moist. It is best to soak each rose in a bucket of water for 2-24 hours before planting.

Most of the business of planting the rose revolves around digging the hole. Farmers long ago coined the phrase "Dig a \$10 hole for a \$5 tree." Skimping on hole size can impair the development of a rose. One of the great advantages of budded roses over own-root roses is that they frequently have such large root systems that in turn require that a large hole must be dug.

1) Dig a hole. A rule of thumb that I use for most roses is to dig a hole whose diameter about matches the diameter of the plant at the end of two years. I may give small roses a hole not much more than 18 inches across. Shrub roses get holes about three feet across. Climbers planted along a wall may get holes a little bigger than this. In any case, the holes should fully accommodate the roots. If the native soil is not too poor, then there is not much reason to dig a very deep hole; about one shovel's depth is good enough. Dig deeper, and the rose will sag too far below the surface after being planted.

If the soil is poor, and is being replaced with imported soil, then digging down eighteen inches or two feet may not be a bad idea, just be sure that the improved soil at the bottom of the hole is packed tightly so that the rose does not sink in when watered in.

2) Make a mound. Once you have a suitable hole, place a cone-shaped mound of soil in the center of the rose whose dimensions roughly match the cone defined by the roots. (If it is a potted plant, don't do this step.)

3) Place the rose into the hole. Try to make sure the roots are straight and evenly distributed around the hole. If it is a potted rose, check to make sure the roots aren't encircling the rose.

4) Fill halfway with earth. Add some slow-release organic fertilizer - perhaps a cup, and fill the hole with water. When the water has drained from the hole, fill in the hole with soil.

5) Pack the soil firmly. If your soil is so full of clay that this seems like you are just making bricks, then you probably should have added some compost to your soil.

6) Shape the surface. I like to make a cone-shaped indentation that catches water and sends it to the rose at the center of the hole. This is convenient for watering later on. If you water with a hose, and the rose is planted on a slope, some kind of dishing around the rose is imperative; otherwise, all the water runs away from the rose.

7) Mulch. Place about 3 inches of mulch on the hole. This will limit evaporation, keep the soil cool, provide some organic matter to fuel life below ground, and limit weed growth.

8) Water In. Apply plenty of water to the rose. Water not only is required to cause the roots to become active, but it also aids in settling the soil into the hole, helping to fill large voids. This is essential to improve soil contact with roots. Water weekly the first year.

9) Water Regularly. For the first three or four months after a rose is transplanted, water every other day or so. Bare root roses are especially vulnerable because they have not formed feeder roots yet.

10) Get your roses in the ground early in the season when the soil is cool and moist. Ideally, it will be before any roses on your property are setting leaf. Here in zone 6b I shoot for the last week of March or the first week of April at the latest. This year I was planting roses on March 15th. We've not had a hard frost since that date and the new roses are only a week or two behind the established roses in budding out. My success last year in planting the second week in April was nearly 100% compared to 50% in the fourth week in April and 10% for the second week in May.

How to Mulch a Rose

Mulch improves the quality of life of a rose in several ways: a) It prevents competing plants from taking root in the rose's territory; b) It decreases water evaporation from the soil without decreasing absorption, c) It decreases temperature swings in the soil, keeping it cooler during the summer and warm during the winter, d) It keeps you from running into the rose with the weed-eater or lawn mower; e) It can help protect a rose against severe winter conditions; f) If piled high enough it can reduce moisture loss in canes of new transplants.

A west coast rose grower advocates piling mulch over most of the exposed canes of a new transplant, then removing it when the rose leafs out. This limits desiccation, a major reason for failure in new transplants.

All sorts of materials are suitable for mulch. Some commonly used ones are pine needles, pine bark, wood chips, chopped roots, coconut hulls, cocoa hulls, and peanut hulls, compost and rotted leaves.

Do not use grass clippings or "unrotted" leaves. They will decompose quickly and while doing so will eat up nitrogen and other nutrients. Three inches is a good depth. Less than two and the beneficial effects dwindle rapidly. More than three and the plants start to treat it as a kind of topsoil - and mulch is not a very good topsoil. This is a bit less of a problem with deeply rooted roses than it is for other cultivars.

People in northern climates will sometimes pile mulch six inches or even a foot high to protect frost-tender roses. This is usually preceded by pruning the rose to a height that roughly matches the depth of mulch.

In the spring - as the tulips blossom - the mulch is pulled away from the rose. This solution works, but there are more high-tech insulation blankets available for this purpose.

Rose of the Month



Won Fang Yon, by Paul Barden

This was a new rose for 2008 - a Tea (not Hybrid Tea, note) called '**Won Fang Yon**', bred in 2003 from the Moore Miniature 'Avandel' and the lovely Tea rose 'Mons. Tillier'. While most of the offspring from this group were dwarf plants and Minis, this one stood out, with its full sized blooms and vigorous, well-rounded growth habit. While this appears to have better winter-hardiness than the purebred Teas, I doubt this rose will be suitable for climates much colder than USDA Zone 7, perhaps Zone 6 with significant protection.

The blooms are fully double in the Tea style, in a pretty coral/light red hue that deepens and becomes more red with age and exposure to sun. Unfortunately, this rose did not inherit any of the fragrance of its Tea parent, which is a shame. Still, I really like the flower shape, its generous bloom production (it is more free-blooming than most Teas) and its graceful, compact growth habit. I have yet to see this rose exceed 4 X 4 feet and requires very little in the way of pruning and maintenance. You will likely find that it makes a long lasting cut flower also. As far as disease resistance is concerned, it is better than many shrubs but if Blackspot is a severe problem in your garden, you will likely need to provide protection from this disease.

Southern California people who tested this for me prior to release say its one of their best roses for that climate. [Rogue](#)

[Valley Roses](#) is now the primary retail distributor for this rose.

Photo courtesy of Paul Barden



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

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Jackie Willis	Merry Point	804-462-7069
Virginia Kostyal	Newport News	757-596-6452
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Address Correction Requested

First Class Mail

Next meeting, April 5, 2009