



# NEWSLETTER

of the

## VIRGINIA PENINSULA ROSE SOCIETY



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

December 2009

<http://www.colonialdistrictroses.org/sitebuildercontent/sitebuilderfiles/2009vprsdecember.pdf>

### Meeting Dates :

December 6  
February

### 2009 Meeting Hosts

Nov 1-Dick, Kostyal, Simpson

### 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

### 2010 Officers

President Sandy Pait  
1<sup>st</sup> VP/Programs Marti Youmans  
2<sup>nd</sup> VP/Membership Margie Tully  
Treasurer Lydia Simpson  
Recording Secretary Jeannette Parsell  
Corresp. Secretary Lita Dick

### 2010 Directors

3 year Directors  
Bob Little, Dick Parsell  
2 year Directors  
Joy Long, Cathy Allsbrook  
1 year Directors  
Wiley Waters, Carole Waters

### YESTERDAY

is a canceled check,

### TOMORROW

is a promissory note,

### TODAY

is the only cash you  
have.....spend it wisely.

unknown

The next VPRS meeting is scheduled for **Sunday, December 6, 2009**, at ‘The Bay Breeze Club on Ft. Monroe. Please join us in fellowship at our Annual Christmas Lunch and share the Installation of our new Officers and Directors for 2010. The insert shows a detailed map and gives driving directions

**December 6, 2009 - 1:00pm**

### Virginia Peninsula Rose Society Annual Holiday Luncheon and Installation of New Officers

(see insert for directions)

### From the President’s Desk:

I hope that you all survived the Nor’easter! My poor roses were battered by 60 mile winds and horizontal rain for 2 ½ days. They are real troopers. Most the leaves had blown off, buds torn, but for the most part doing OK. I just hope they tolerate all the rain we had. This sure has been an interesting year for the weather.

I am slowly preparing for the holiday season and hope that you are looking forward to our Christmas Luncheon as I am. I hope that you all can attend and help us celebrate. Please remember to get your reservations into Bob Little. See you December 6<sup>th</sup>.  
Sandy Pait

### From the ‘Christmas Lunch’ Chairperson:

Our Christmas Lunch at the Fort Monroe Officer’s Club is next Sunday at 1pm. Please look over the insert to this newsletter. Because Ft. Monroe is still a Military Installation, **you and your passengers will have to present a picture ID** at the gate to drive onto base.

If you have not yet made your reservation, call Bob Little (number is on the back of this letter). We need to finalize the list of names to present to the guard so you will not be delayed at the gate.

**In case there is a problem, please call cell phone 757-879-5970.**

Bob Little

### From the Refreshment Chairperson:

A big THANK YOU to Lita Dick for bringing the tasty refreshments at our November meeting. Even though part of the Woman’s Club building could not be used, she was able to make a quick “change of plans” to accommodate us – your efforts are much appreciated.

Virginia Kostyal

## **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 15<sup>th</sup> of the month.*

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**April 27 – May 2, 2010 – ARS Spring National Convention,**  
Shreveport, LA. Contact: Mary Walker, 318-965-4153,  
[marycookwalker@bellsouth.net](mailto:marycookwalker@bellsouth.net)

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## **NEWS from the Refreshment Chairperson:**

The Virginia Peninsula Rose Society Board discussed the assignment of refreshment hosts for the 2010 meetings. The Board decided to divide the Society Membership into six groups. Each group will be responsible for refreshments once during the year. Hosts for the first meeting in February are:

**Cathy Allsbrook; Bonnie Bernard; Terry and David Cottrell; Marie David; Sheila Elliott; Bill Floyd**

Please call the Refreshment Chairperson at 596-6452, if you find that you will NOT attend that day.

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**Virginia Peninsula Rose Society Christmas Luncheon**  
**Sunday, Dec 6, 2009 - 1:00 PM**  
Come join us in the VPRS Room  
The Bay Breeze Club, 490  
Fenwick Road Fort Monroe VA  
\$15.00 per person  
Buffet Menu with a variety of  
entrees, sides, and desserts

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Guest Names \_\_\_\_\_  
Telephone# \_\_\_\_\_  
Total Number in party \_\_\_\_\_

**If you have not made a reservation, please Call Bob Little 757-851-1140**  
**Reservation Deadline is December 2, 2009**

## **GARDENING TIPS OF THE WEEK**

### **Compost - the Rosarian's best friend**

by Gloria Hartis Alexander from The Charlotte Rosebud, March-April 2000)

"Compost is the decomposed, cured form of organic matter." Compost worked into new or existing rose beds will increase microorganism activity and improve soil character and moisture retention. It has wonderful nutrient value. The best source of good compost is your yard. This composting technique is designed to take advantage of your garden waste.

All you need to do is slightly modify your autumn leaf handling. From now on, every autumn, put all your dry leaves into plastic trash bags, tie the top and hide the bags out behind the garage. In time, you will have a high quality, no fuss, no mess, practically free soil amendment called compost. The compost pile is a hodgepodge of microscopic life, from one-celled organisms of bacteria, through fungi, protozoa, centipedes, beetles and earthworms. Do not ever spray a pesticide close by; since you want to preserve these God given living creations helping us break down natural wastes.

The perfect compost pile is 1 part Greens (Nitrogen) to 30 parts Browns (Carbon). If your ratio is more or less than perfect, your compost pile will decompose more slowly. You can compost coffee grounds, plant clippings, grass clippings, leaves, manure, kitchen scraps, fruit & vegetable peels, crushed eggshells, tea bags and the filter with the coffee grounds. Also, well-shredded newspaper or cardboard, broken or shredded corncobs, ground or crushed nutshells and ground oyster shells are wonderful resources. **Anything, except ingredients containing salt and grease.** Keep it simple- pile leaves in a designated spot in the sun - add manure or other nitrogen source - add scraps of throwaways - keep layering this process and keep moist.

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### **Leave no leaf unturned**

from the *Avant Gardener*, September 1999

Ounce for ounce, leaves are richer in minerals than any other plant material. Wise gardeners have many ways of taking advantage of fall's fallen bounty.

Leaves can simply be allowed to accumulate on bare soil under trees and shrubs, or raked there. Many woody plants, which are doing poorly, will be revitalized by having several inches of leaves piled over their roots, preferably mixed with loose materials like straw to reduce matting. For vegetable and flowerbeds, leaves are best shredded and at least partially decomposed, since growth-inhibiting allelopathic compounds are released during their initial decomposition. On lawns, leaves can be mowed to nourish the soil and grass.

Left alone, piles of leaves will become leaf mold in two to three years. The process is speeded by shredding them, adding some nitrogen fertilizer, and keeping the pile moist; turning the pile every three or four days will produce leaf mold in three weeks. The same methods work in a large closed plastic bag kept in a cellar or garage.

Lacking a shredder-grinder, a rotary mower will shred leaves efficiently if run into a pile at an angle, so will a string trimmer if the leaves are placed in a large garbage can. Shredded leaves are easily applied to evergreen groundcover and perennial plantings by pouring them over the plants and brushing the foliage gently to move them down to the soil.

If leaves and a variety of other wastes are plentiful, any area of poor soil, from sand to heavy clay, will be improved by building a compost heap on it. A 3-foot mound will settle to about one foot high by spring. This can be planted as a raised bed, the compost can be tilled in, or it may be removed for use elsewhere as mulch.

Leaf-chunk mulch is a new idea. Leaves in a pile or bin are trampled down to compress them, then in spring chunks one inch thick are lifted with a fork and used as mulch. Leaf-chunk mulch will last at least one season, and is not unattractive.

# Consulting Rosarian Corner

## Preparing Your Roses for Winter in Tidewater

by Howard E. Jones, TRS, Master Rosarian

Master Consulting Rosarians living in Hampton Roads, we are very fortunate when it comes to winter protection for our roses. We do not have very severe winter weather and it rarely drops below 20° F. It is the 'up and down' temperatures that can cause the most problems. It can be 25°F at night during a cold snap, and two days later the daytime temperature can be in the sixties. Our roses really never go totally dormant because of this. The most important thing for winter survival is for our rose bushes to go into the winter season strong and healthy. If our bushes have been defoliated from Black Spot during the season, they may not survive the winter. The leaves, through photosynthesis, make the sugars and starches that feed the plant, so it is important to control the fungus diseases—particularly Black Spot. Keep in mind that we can have some really good blooms in November; and don't start encouraging them to shut down too soon. Some experts say that on your last blooms, pull the petals off instead of deadheading. I am not very consistent in doing this since I cut a lot of long stemmed blooms, even in the late Fall. This does not seem to cause a problem and my rose bushes always survive the winter well with very little damage.

If you spray your rose bushes to control fungus diseases and insect damage, continue to spray every 7-14 days as long as daytime temperatures are 50°F or above. In our area, it is generally safe to stop spraying around Thanksgiving. You don't need to use an insecticide since insects are not very active in the cooler weather. I top my bushes after one or two hard freezes, bringing them down to three and one-half feet, if they are taller than that. This keeps them from rocking around in the cold winter winds and creating a space around the bud union that can fill with water that freezes and possibly damages the bud union that could result in losing the bush. It also prevents the breaking of long canes from the winds. Another benefit – particularly if you have a lot of bushes – is that you will have a lot less pruned branches to deal with and dispose of when you do your serious pruning in the late winter/early spring.

The last thing I do for winter protection, after topping the rose bushes, is to put two or three shovels of pine bark mulch around the bud union to protect it from rapid changes of temperature, and from dehydrating from cold winds. In the Spring, after all danger of a freeze is over, I spread the mounded mulch evenly over the beds as my annual addition of pine bark mulch.

There is one additional thing of importance: Don't neglect watering your rose bushes if Mother Nature doesn't provide adequate rainfall. It does take less water than in the active growing season; but the roots are still growing and they do need some water if you have a dry period with no rain. This is particularly true of any potted roses. So, you see, it doesn't take a lot of work in the Tidewater area to protect our roses for the winter months. Nevertheless, I would recommend that you do the simple procedures that I have suggested.

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## Winter Checklist

author unknown

While most of us are more concerned with caring for our plants during the growing season, winter landscaping is just as important if you want to have a great looking lawn and healthy, vibrant plants year-round. With the arrival of cold weather, there are essential tasks that need to be performed in order to keep your landscape and garden protected throughout the fall and winter. Here are some tips to help you maintain your landscape:

### Prepare your Lawn

Cool Season Lawns (Fescue) - Fall is the best time to fertilize and reseed your cool season lawn. We suggest a second feeding in late November to keep your lawn strong throughout the winter and to apply a pre-emergent to control cool season weeds such as Henbit and Chickweed. Warm Season Lawns - (Bermuda, Zoysia, Centipede and St. Augustine) do not need fertilizing during fall and winter. If winter color is desired, then overseed lawn with Annual Rye and (all but Zoysia) apply a pre-emergent to control cool season weeds such as henbit and chickweed.

### Prune Shrubs and Hedges

Pruning encourages healthy growth in the spring. A good rule of thumb is to prune spring-blooming shrubs immediately after flowering, and summer-blooming shrubs during their dormant season. When pruning, cut a single angle about ¼ inch from the branch. Adding a layer of mulch around the base of plants will help provide insulation during winter. Watering prior to deep freezes also helps to insulate roots. Wait until spring to fertilize shrubs.

### Tips for Trees

Keep tree limbs away from power lines and the roof of your house. Branches can easily pull down gutters or cause other costly damage. You may want to consult with a professional arborist prior to tree pruning. They will know the best method for your species of trees and the best time of year for pruning. Typically, tree pruning should be done in late winter or early spring, before new growth emerges.

## Rose of the Month



### Dorothy Rose

by Steve Jones

You might ask why I am writing about this rose, one of my own creations. Is it because I am the proud papa, I want to hype the rose, is it self-serving, or it happens to be a great rose? Actually, it is all of the above.

'Dorothy Rose' (JONdorose, 1998) was named for my Mom. This miniature sweetheart is a cross of 'Sarabande' (a 1957 Floribunda, orange-red, from Meiland) and 'Peggy "T"' (a 1988 Miniature, medium red, single form, from Gene King). The baby inherited from both sides! The single blooms of Dorothy Rose are flushed white, orange, red-orange, red, with red or white stripes. No two blooms are the same nor are the colors of the rose. The petals frame bright yellow stamens.

The plant is tall and almost "bullet proof" for diseases in my Southern California garden. Last spring when every known disease on earth made it to my yard, 'Dorothy Rose' was one of the few roses that had no disease. It is also growing at a friend's garden in the eastern United States, and is doing well without any disease problems. I am not sure about the winter hardiness, but would guess it should do well with Sarabande as a parent, as Sarabande doesn't mind a rough winter.

The blooms are long lasting and have a nice spicy fragrance. The blooms come one to a stem or in small clusters. The canes are well clothed with foliage that is nearly evergreen.

It is a great rose for the single miniature class at rose shows. I have won numerous awards with 'Dorothy Rose' in the seedling class and also the single miniature bloom and spray classes. The bright colors really catch the judges' eye. In a pot, 'Dorothy Rose' makes an excellent color spot!

Dorothy Rose is available from [Almost Heaven Roses](#)



**Virginia Peninsula Rose Society**

**Editor**

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**Hampton, VA 23664-1842**

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**Address Correction Requested**

**First Class Mail**

#### **V.P.R.S. Consulting Rosarians**

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

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Jack Holland	Hampton	757-723-1618
Robert Little	Hampton	757-851-1140
Joy Long	Hayes	804-642-4556
Jackie Willis	Merry Point	804-462-7069
Virginia Kostyal	Newport News	757-596-6452
Lois Lilygren	Newport News	757-877-4498
Pat Wilson	Norfolk	757-853-0621
George Wilson	Norfolk	757-853-0621
Terry Cottrell	Richmond	804-271-6600
David Cottrell	Richmond	804-271-6600
Carole Waters	Seaford	757-988-8746
Howard Jones	Virginia Beach	757-481-4158
Marti Youmans	Yorktown	757-867-5566

**Christmas Lunch....December 6, 2009**

Details inside