



NEWSLETTER

of the

VIRGINIA PENINSULA ROSE SOCIETY

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

June/September 2009



visit our website "www.vprs.org"

Meeting Dates 2009:

JUN 7 – Picnic
SEP 13
OCT 4
NOV 1
DEC 6

2009 Meeting Hosts

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

In numbering your days, God doesn't count those that are spent in the garden attending His roses.

Bob Martin

On May 14, 2009, Bob Little presented to Seniors at the Williamsburg Community Center, James City County, "Growing Beautiful Roses All Year Long". To each participant he handed out information on rose care (insect and disease control); the Beginner's Rose Show on September 13, and VPRS membership information. There were lots and lots of questions and discussion!

The next VPRS meeting is scheduled for **Sunday, June 7, 2009** - our Annual Picnic at the home of Dorothy Rouse-Bottom. Please join us to review the Rose Show, share our food, and have a relaxing afternoon.

Directions to the Picnic: From I-64 take Exit 265A (LaSalle Ave - VA 167 West) follow for 2.5 miles; turn right on Chesapeake Ave (VA 167), follow for 1.5 miles, 1500 Chesapeake Ave is on your left. You may call cell # 879-5970 for directions.

June 7, 2009

3:00pm

Board Meeting

4:00pm

Picnic

**Please bring a covered dish - meat, vegetable, salad, or dessert.
Beverages, plates, napkins and eating utensils are provided.**

September 13, 2009

2:00pm

Board Meeting

3:00pm

Beginner's Rose Show

Refreshments: Virginia Kostyal and Lydia Simpson

From the President's Desk:

We have done it again; another successful Rose Show!!! Our Dick Parsell has out done himself again. Everything ran very smoothly for the weekend even after our ups and downs before the event. Patrick Henry Mall was very accommodating and helpful. We could not have done it without everyone's help and all the hands made things go a lot quicker. My thanks to all, especially all the committee chairmen and most of all our illustrious leader Dick and his wonderful sidekick, Jeanette. A job well done.

I am looking forward to a nice relaxing afternoon on June 7 over looking the Hampton Roads harbor at our picnic. Dorothy Rouse-Bottom has once more offered her lovely home for the event. I look forward to seeing all of you there!!

Sandy Pait

VPRS' program for Sunday, September 13, 2009, is a "Beginners Rose Show." The show is designed especially for New Rose Growers, but is open to all rose growers who have not won a trophy at a rose show and desire to learn more about how to prepare for rose show competition. Everyone participating in the show will register their entries for the show at 2:00 pm on Sunday. Water filled vases will be provided. Individuals participating in the Arrangement Division will bring their own backdrops.

The Horticultural Division includes large and miniatures roses shown as single specimens or in clusters. The Arrangement Division theme will be "Back To School."

Please bring in your roses or arrangement for competition, discussion and award. VPRS members will bring in their roses/arrangements for demonstration only.

Trophies will be given for best rose and best arrangement. This rose show will provide education by VPRS Consulting Rosarians and Rose Judges on the fundamentals of grooming roses for entry into a rose show. To RSVP please contact either Robert Little 757-851-1140,... Joy Long 804-642-4556,... or Marti Youmans 757-867-5566.

Bob Little

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.

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

From the 2009 Rose Show Chairman, Dick Parsell:

A BIG THANK YOU

On behalf of the rose show committee, I want to thank all the participants and all those who worked together to help make this year's show a success. Set-up started at 9:00PM on Fri and thanks to those who came, we were done by 10:30 PM. I was hoping for a respectable showing of blooms but feared for the worse because of the crazy weather we had this spring. You came through, however, and brought a good number of blooms and made the show tables sing with "songs of roses". There were enough left over to sell to the public at the education table and make an additional \$119.00 in bloom sales. A special thanks to Bob Little and those who worked at the education table for signing up four new members to VPRS and passing on good information about roses. Thank you, Marti Youmans for overseeing the design division. Take down went well Sunday afternoon because of the eight who helped. Thanks again for all your help and participation.

GARDENING TIPS OF THE WEEK

from Marie Iannotti

It's official, most of us don't bother labeling our plants. At least not for most of our ornamental plants. I love the fact that 19% of people questioned said "If it comes with a tag, I'll use it." That tells me that knowing the name of a plant is nice, but it's not essential to enjoying it. There are many great ideas for making labels and other means of keeping track of what you plant. I'm torn between wanting to remember what I planted where (and what didn't come back) and not wanting to litter my garden with unsightly plant labels. Do you label the plants in your garden? Have you found a way to label important plants without it distracting from the look of the garden. I'm very impressed by how many people map out their gardens. I would be more inclined to do that if my plants would promise to stay in one place.

-Paint Mixing Sticks - go to your hardware store and get paint mixing sticks(they are usually free) painted up and labeled they usually look pretty good. Mel

-When I go to a function, I collect as many of the knives as possible. Take them home and wash them. I use a fine point permanent sharpie marker to write the name on it. Sometimes I will cover with a piece of clear packaging tape and stick in the ground next to the plant so that only a small portion of the knife is visible. This lets me know where everything is planted in the garden as well as the flower beds. Karen

-Rocks - decorative rocks!! My children love to find large rocks and use colored sharpies to put near the plants. Its a nice, decorative way to remember what you planted and it doesn't take much space or wash off easily.. Kortney

-I use white plastic spoons and mark with a fine point sharpie; then I stick the handle as horizontal as I can into the ground. If you don't like white you can use colors. James

-Put the written part in the ground - Yes, most labels fade, even marking pens but a cattle ear tag marker found at Southern States or Agway stores will not fade. Problem is I can't find them in a fine point. If you put the written part of your label underground and leave some of the label above ground so you know it's there, you can remove it and see what is written. For some reason, it doesn't fade as quickly if done this way. Brander

-You can paint the names of your plants on different sizes and shapes of rocks. Make your own small stepping stones with quick dry cement, add the names by either painting them on these or writing them on before it dries. Elaine

-Most of my garden Flowers and Vegetables are in pots. When I first started almost a full year ago, I didn't think of labeling pots. When I did I was very vague about description and anything else. I was very interested in my plants and didn't think it was a necessary item. The more I got involved with my plants I discovered I really knew little or could recall much information about them. So I purchased a roll of wide masking tape. Every time I planted a veggie or a flower I labeled them. I put the name of the seed company, the item, date planted, approx date of germination, date of harvest, naturally the name of the plant & finally if it will need to be thinned out and what size to prune or separate. The tape I use is 3 inch wide, and I use a Black Magic Marker with a fine point. This helps me maintain a visible record of the plant and when I can expect flowers or fruit. I do this for propagating plants also and it gives me an idea when the roots should start to appear. Butch

-I use coke cans cut into strips they never fade, they are permanent gbk

-Herb Labels - I labeled my herbs because I was too cheap to buy the pretty metal embossed labels. Instead, I used wooden rectangles from a craft store and stakes for them and painted them with acrylic paint. I had only a few so I painted an illustration of the herb and the name. I used colors that complement the herb. After the paint dries, I spray paint them with polyurethane and they hold up fairly well. I've given a few as gifts sticking them in herbs in pots. Mine are small. It's something to do in the off season when I don't garden as much. It also helps with herbs that die down so I remember they are there - garlic, for example. catlady

-Labeling Plants - I use the tongue depressor that the medics use to look at your throat. Use an indelible felt tip marker. jdickb

Consulting Rosarian Corner

Deer Problems? Tried and proven test results

by Doug Helberg, Region 6 Director

From the spring 2008 issue of the Central District Dispatch, Dick Burkholder—Editor

When I first set up the rose garden at the Omaha Botanical Gardens, which is located along the Missouri river, the area was inhabited by many deer, hundreds of deer. The land was an old baled landfill which was covered with dirt from an old brick factory, and was to become Omaha's masterpiece for a Botanical Garden. So being with no soil, no drainage, no water, the possibilities seemed not worth the effort. But the challenge was on, and several members of the Omaha Rose Society arrived to plant 750 rose bushes in mud that I was able to get donated (but a year early). No need to try to water in, as trenches filled in as soon as they were temporarily in place. The following year, they were moved into another temporary spot, at least we had drainage. The third year, after we finally had real dirt hauled in, new beds were planted but there was still a drainage-problem, as contractor's work was poor, at the best. Beds finally had to be elevated and after five years of frustrations, a formal rose garden looked promising. But, then came the deer for their dessert. Our deer guards had been unplugged by contractors and we no longer had bushes. They devoured everything. Determined to get ahead of them, we ordered a product that I had read about but had little experience with at that time. It was an electric sonic sound machine that put out a high pitched sound and they were able to keep the deer out. It certainly did the job. The sound is not detectable by the human ear, but certainly did the job. Now the deer have been hunted, chased out and fenced out by the boundary, so it is not needed at the gardens. Had couple others experiment with it and it does keep large dogs, skunks, squirrels, armadillos and other rodents out of the area. Believe I am going to order one for my front yard to see if rabbits will also stay away. See now they also have a Bird Xpella Pro for keeping birds away; going to send one to a friend that has extreme pigeon problems at her condo. It has a built in monitor sensor that activates when animals move into coverage zone. Advertised as environmentally safe. Covers approximately 35 ft. distance, 4,000 SF with frequency of 15M to 25M Hz. 80 feet by 50 feet with oval coverage. Those with deer problems, might want to give it a try and test yourself.

Available from: Yard Guard, Shop-From-Your-Home, 3871 N. Clarey St., Eugene, OR. Tel: 877-267-2444

www.shopfromyourhome.com

FOR THE BEGINNER

by 'Giggles'

Q: *The arrangements I see at shows that I really like have a lot of space to help give the idea of three dimensions, but every time I try, I wind up seeing the open areas as "empty" and tend to fill them up with roses or materials and all the "space" disappears. How do you create an arrangement that utilizes space for a 3-D effect?*

A: This month's question is more esoteric and therefore will cause my answer to maybe ramble a bit. But bear with me. Space – the final frontier! Oops that was from somewhere else. Your question is both simple and hard to answer.

You want to know why you see open areas as 'empty' and tend to fill them up with stuff when doing arrangements. Honestly, the reason is probably that you might be feeling unsure of your creation and are trying to fill it up with more "stuff" so that your perceived "flaws" won't show. This is not an uncommon thing. Knowing how people will add to something to make it better when it is not necessary has been around for some time. The famous designer Coco Chanel recognized this and counseled her clients by saying that "When they got dressed in the morning and when giving a final look in the mirror – Take one thing off". So this desire to add more is not unknown. Indeed, when helping new and experienced arrangers, the hardest thing is to tell them and myself – "STOP. Do not add more stuff.

Let it go". If you have been around rose shows you will often hear one arranger to another "Do you think I need more stuff?" And the answer is usually NO. Most often, you will hear something to the effect of no, take this or that away – it is too much. Now, I am going to give you a couple of things to think about. When you enter a horticulture exhibit, you don't want anything to take away from the rose bloom. We penalize for distractions, torn leaves, extraneous material in the leaf nodes. Think of your arrangement as a 'Hort' entry. You wouldn't want to add stuff that will distract from the rose. Consider this second concept "Frame the Rose". We take wonderful pictures, or paint wonderful paintings. But the frame can mess the whole thing up. An arrangement is a way to use material, floral, sticks, wire etc. to make a frame in which to show off the rose. The space that you in the past wanted to fill in is exactly that – the frame for the blooms. So next time you go to do a Modern or Oriental Style where space is usually important think of the following:

1. Use this venue to show off the BLOOMS.
2. Use empty space to be the frame around each element that lets the element stand out.
3. When in doubt leave it out
4. As you are ready to leave the area, turn, look and take one thing out that clutters the space.... Space is the final frontier where man should not put things

VRPS 2009 Rose Show Education Table Highlights:

All of the rose plants were sold at a net profit, and our Rose in a Vase Sale totaled \$119.53. Three people applied for membership – Marian Poineau, Jim and Sherry Lewis, of Newport News and Rudy Nabel of Williamsburg. Liz Witkowski, a New Century, Inc. / Rich Earth representative, joined our table with her products. VPRS sold them at a discount to our membership and part of the profits were shared with VPRS. Information was also made available for the Beginner's Rose Show at our September 13 meeting.

Rose of the Month



Souvenir de la Malmaison by Steve Jones

Of all of the roses in my yard, one of my favorites has to be **Souvenir de la Malmaison**. If there was ever an old garden rose that could out-bloom most modern roses, this is it. With lovely, light pink to almost white blooms that have the classic quartered appearance of old garden roses, this old rose remains a small plant. My ten-year-old plant is still three feet high by four feet wide. Add to that a nice, spicy fragrance, and you have a rose that is tough to beat.

Souvenir (French for 'memory') de la Malmaison was named to honor Malmaison, the former home of the real rose queen, the French Empress Josephine, wife of Napoleon Bonaparte. Her love of the rose helped to ensure the future of the species more than any other person in history. Malmaison was a rose and plant showcase from 1798 through 1814. She hired one of the top gardeners in France, Aime Bonpland, and one of the top botanical painters, Pierre-Joseph Redoute, to preserve the memory of many a rose that might have been lost in obscurity (Eastman - Kodak was not on the scene yet). It was

said that even though her husband was at war with the world, the opposing navies would allow her ships filled with plants to pass through the harbor barriers unmolested.

Since intentional hybridization was relatively a new practice, Josephine encouraged the top breeders in France to create new species using her collection of over 250 roses. Prior to that time, hybridization was done naturally by insects and self-pollination. The participants represented the "who's who" in rose history: Dupont, Cochet, Laffey, Prevost and Vilmorin. Unfortunately, Josephine did not live long enough to see the fruits of her labor.

Souvenir de la Malmaison is a bourbon rose that was introduced in 1843 by Beluze. According to *Modern Roses*, Souvenir was a cross of the 1831 bourbon, **Madame Deprez**, and a tea rose, which would explain the tenderness and constant blooming ability of this rose. In mild winter years, Souvenir will not stop blooming. It is not unusual to see over 50 blooms on the plant during peak times. Souvenir is also a good show rose. Behind **Marchesa Boccella**, this rose was my second top winner of the ARS Dowager Award at many rose shows.

Unfortunately, Souvenir is not without its faults. Although it grows very well in the non-coastal areas of Southern California, it is tender in the colder climates of the United States. Also, the blooms tend to ball in wet, damp weather, and the plant will slightly mildew if you don't spray. The rose takes 2-3 years to mature, but when it does, it will reward you with an abundance of blooms. There is a climbing version of Souvenir (1893, Bennett) which is quite vigorous and blooms very well. The bush and climber are available from several old garden rose mail order nurseries.

There are several sports or seedlings of Souvenir worth mentioning. A semi-double form of Souvenir was found by Hilling in 1950 called **Souvenir de St. Anne's**. This rose is very popular in the deep south. **Leveson Gower** (1845) by Beluze, is also called Souvenir de la Malmaison Rose, which is a medium orange-pink or rose color with similar full, cupped blooms. **Kronprinzessin Viktoria** (1887) is a pale yellow sport from Vollert that has fewer petals. Unfortunately, Kronprinzessin seems to be more disease prone, especially to powdery mildew. If you want a small OGR that will out bloom most hybrid teas, is fragrant, and could win the Dowager Award at shows, this is the one!

Photo courtesy of Steve Jones



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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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Jackie Willis	Merry Point	804-462-7069
Virginia Kostyal	Newport News	757-596-6452
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Pat Wilson	Norfolk	757-853-0621
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Address Correction Requested

First Class Mail

Picnic.....June 7, 2009