



NEWSLETTER

OF THE

VIRGINIA PENINSULA ROSE SOCIETY

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

March 2009



visit our website “www.vprs.org”

Meeting Dates 2009:

MAR 1 – Pruning Clinic
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

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

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Janet Kosidlak, Helen Hill,
Virginia Kostyal, Annemarie Parker

From the Country Store

Your fertilizer orders will be delivered at the pruning clinic, March 1, at the Huntington Rose Garden in Newport News. Please call George Wilson at 757-853-0621, if you want to make other arrangements for pick-up.

It is easier to suggest solutions, when you don't know too much about the problem.

Wisdom from the Rambling Rosarian, Howard Walters (1999)

Our pruning session, the next meeting of the VPRS, will be held on **Sunday, March 1, 2009** at ‘The Huntington Rose Garden’ in Newport News, VA (The garden is located at the intersection of Warwick Blvd. and Mercury Blvd.).

Directions to the Huntington Rose Garden from I-64: Take Exit 258A – Route 17 West/ J. Clyde Morris Blvd. Follow J. Clyde Morris Blvd., across Jefferson Ave. to Warwick Blvd. and turn left. Follow Warwick for about 7 miles to the YMCA. The garden will be on your right.

March 1, 2009

2:00pm Pruning at ‘The Rose Garden at Huntington Park’ with Carole and Wiley Waters

Please bring your gloves, disinfected rose pruning tools, and be ready to show the public how to prune. Please bring any extra pruning tools you may have.

From the President’s Desk:

February is almost over and I am ready to be in the garden as I’m sure all of you are too. Beautiful weather encourages me to do things in the garden that I really should not do this early, but pruning is a great thing to do at this time. I urge all of you to attend the pruning clinic on March 1 at Huntington Park. I always learn something new and it is a great hands-on experience. It is also a perfect time to invite a friend that has an interest in roses. I am challenging each member to sponsor a new member this year. Wouldn’t it be wonderful if we could double our membership!?! Let’s everyone bring a guest to the March meeting.

I hope you have all made your reservations for the Pre -Spring meeting in Staunton on March 14 and 15. See you all then.

Happy Pruning.....Sandy

From the Rose Show Chairman:

I presume everyone is in the process of pruning roses this month. Jeannette and I always enjoy spring pruning to freshen-up those beds and make way for new growth and those fresh May blooms—a chance for a “new beginning” each Spring. With those new blooms we also anticipate the May Rose Show. Your Rose Show last year was a success because everyone participated. We again need your help for a successful show in 2009. If you had a function in the show last year and would like to help in that area again, and you have not been contacted, please call me. We are still looking for a theme for the show. This is our 61st show. All suggestion will be considered. The show will be May 16th and 17th at Patrick Henry Mall. This is same location as last year. Please keep Friday the 15th open on your calendar for the evening set-up. I’ll see y’all during the March pruning session at Huntington Park. Your show chairman—Dick Parsell 850-2765

MARCH 31 IS DEADLINE FOR RENEWING YOUR 2009 MEMBERSHIP, PLEASE MAIL IT IN TODAY. Details inside

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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March 13 and 14, 2009 - Colonial District Pre-Spring Meeting, Staunton, VA, hosted by TRS and VPRS, Contact: Peggy Scott, 757-588-1865, or e-mail ta

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

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

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:

| | |
|---------------------------------|----------|
| <i>Mills Magic</i> , 20lb bags | \$16.00 |
| <i>Mills Easy Feed</i> , 1gal | \$28.50 |
| <i>Fish Emulsion</i> | \$ 14.50 |
| <i>Champion 20-20-20</i> , 25lb | \$23.00 |

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

From the Chairperson - 'Advertising in the Rose Show Schedule'

All members, and especially those serving on the Board of Directors, please take the enclosed ad letter and form to stores where you shop or receive services. When you share your love for roses with people, they will be more inclined to sign up for an ad. You may be surprised of how easy it is. This is just one simple way to support your Society.

GARDENING TIPS OF THE WEEK

from Marie Iannotti

Oh my goodness! There's something very bright outside and I think it's sunshine. I haven't seen that in weeks. Could spring be just around the corner? Oh, I hope so. I've never had much use for the month of February, except to get my seeds started. If you haven't started yours yet, you'd better get your supplies in order, so you'll be ready to go, just in case spring really does come early. I have my fingers crossed.

Quicker Seed Germination: The night before you plan to plant your okra row in the veggie garden, soak the seed in water and the seed will sprout about 10 days earlier than usual. We have the earliest crop for gumbo every time! --- Submitted by *Becky*

Fungus Gnat Control: A gardening friend of mine gave me a great way to control these pesky nuisances: Into a small flat container of apple cider vinegar add a few drops of dish soap. This works very well and is less expensive than chemical means. --Submitted by *Chance*

The Importance of Soil Testing

The value of occasionally taking soil tests paid off nicely for me this spring. I tested all my beds and found an unusually high phosphorus level. Now I expect the phosphorus levels to be a bit on the high side with all the fertilizing I do and the fact that phosphorus moves very slowly through the soil. A lot of it sort of hangs around locked up on soil particles and unavailable to the roses.

That is why you have to add it even if your levels are a bit high. But my levels were sky high! So I adjusted my fertilizer schedule to include only nitrogen for the first month. I used ammonium nitrate for a quick pick-me-up and then urea nitrogen at 34-0-0 for a longer release. The bushes responded wonderfully and have lush growth and beautiful green leaves with lots of blooms. I will return to my timed-release base-line fertilizer, Osmocote 15-9-12, with minor changes for the rest of the season. Then I augment with fortified Alfalfa tea and occasional liquid applications of fish emulsion and Peter's 20-20-20.

Contact your local Extension Agent for Soil Testing.

FOR THE BEGINNER

Q: My question concerns pruning, specifically pruning dead canes that are black and brown down to the crown or bud union. Should I cut the canes flush with this crown and then seal it?

A: Yes, by all means, cut any dead (black or brown) canes back as far as necessary to get rid of the dead wood. If that means all the way back to the bud union (or crown), then cut it flush and seal the cane. It is unusual for a cane to go dead that far back and, if it does, there is the possibility that the bud union itself may have been injured by the winterkill. If that should be the case, the plant may not survive, but cut the dead cane as far back as necessary, and see if a new bud will erupt and send out a new cane.

Consulting Rosarian Corner

Kicking the Chemicals

by Jack Shoultz , Good Earth Rose Care

It's going on 8 years since my wife and I made the decision to change our way of growing roses. Before then we used everything anyone told us worked in his or her garden. We sprayed with all the old tried and true fungicides and pesticides then tried all the new stuff that was up-and-coming. Our feeding regiment consisted of six or eight bags of high-energy chemicals. We used high nitrogen for a good kick-off in the spring. We then used a balanced N-P-K for other times and a high phosphorous for 2 weeks before a rose show. In between, we used a whole bunch of other things. We didn't really think about what we were doing other than reading the directions on all these containers and listening to speakers who talked about how to use the chemicals properly. Our spraying attire included the facemask, boots, gloves, long sleeved shirt, hat, etc. We at least complied with the full gear necessary for some sort of safety in spraying, but it sure wasn't my favorite thing to do.

For a long time we thought this is how everyone grew roses. Looking back we think it's because the nonchemical group is much less vocal and are more content to let everyone garden his or her own way. While visiting other people's gardens I would always ask what they used for mildew, which was our worst enemy. I was surprised when someone would say they didn't spray and their garden looked great. This brought about a curiosity if it could really be done. That is, could we grow good roses and actually show them without all the chemicals? So we started investigating as to what people could use in place of chemicals and we started reading anything we could find on organic gardening.

As I read more and more, it seemed to bring back memories of what I saw as a kid growing up on a farm in Missouri. I remember when the fields were sprayed with pesticides because of the grasshoppers, corn bores, etc. Back in those days, DDT was the chemical of choice. I remember my dad's cousin did this spraying for several years as a second job (he was a farmer too). At first he wore the mask and all the proper attire but as time went on, the less important and more trouble it was to take these precautions. About 15 years later, while in his 40s, he was diagnosed with cancer and died a quick and painful death. The doctors were positive the cause of his type of cancer was his high exposure to DDT.

I also seem to remember that when something became less effective, the resolution was to make the spray more lethal by increasing the concentration. I'm glad to say that is not the case now. Dad used this chemical for a couple of years then changed to a new type of pesticide called "inoculants." This was a chemical put in the soil that came up through the roots of the plants. But he was aware of what this did to the soil and every 2 years we grew a green crop [cover crop] and plowed it under to revitalize the soil.

This "inoculant" sounds like the precursor of our now popular systemic fertilizers that put pesticides and fungicides in the soil. How can we revitalize what they destroy as they go down through the soil? It is harder to try a new way but if you take the initiative to think your way through less chemical use, the more satisfaction and less worry you will encounter.

To help make the decision, here is a list of reasons why you should try to avoid chemicals

1) Health - Less illness associated with chemical use (i.e. cancer and neurological disease, which are on the increase).

2) The Earth - What do chemicals do in the soil and air? Where do they end up?

3) Family and Friends - Future generations will appreciate it.

4) Less Stress, More Fun - Less stress by not worrying about the consequences of what you are doing in your garden, and more fun when you find an organic remedy that works.

Chemical use has been around for many years but many of the original chemicals are not. Most of them have been banned or are just not useful anymore. This could be because after continued use the malady that it was intended for has developed a resistance. If that happens, then there may not be a resolution except to see what Mother Nature can accomplish on her own.

Another reason for chemicals disappearing is that they are found to cause health or environmental problems. Dursban (chlorpyrifos) and diazinon, two organophosphate pesticides that are broad spectrum neurotoxins, are being banned. Birds have died from just one granule of diazinon, and it has been found in the air, rain, and fog. It is also a major source of drinking water contamination. Even with all that the government is allowing the manufacturer to continue providing the product until June 2003 and sell it until 2004.

A report out of Stanford University reveals that 70 percent of all people who have Parkinson's disease have had exposure to pesticides. Miracle-Gro brand fertilizer has been banned in 10 states due to underground water contamination. The list continues to grow. Household pesticides and chemicals are often blamed as the cause of many maladies but those used outside are the same chemicals, just different applications or concentrations.

I am continually learning more and more about what is okay to use and what isn't. Until 2 years ago, I thought Miracle Gro was okay and we used it many times. But now we found new and more natural methods. It is more of a challenge for us to find the right methods of feeding and trying to keep our plants disease and pest free.

It is common knowledge that healthy plants can combat most problems. Healthy plants need healthy soil for the best results. If your soil is healthy then the plant can more efficiently take in the nutrients needed for strong production. One of the best things you can do is composting. This can be very rewarding as you are not only sending less natural material to the landfills, but you are also enriching your own soil with no cost except a little time and effort.

It is not easier to grow roses without chemicals; in fact I think you need to become more aware of what is going on in your garden on a daily basis. Keeping your roses clean will go a long way in preventing disease and pests from getting a foothold in your garden. This is the balance that most of us are trying to achieve. The results are so much more rewarding-knowing that what you are doing and how you do it are not adversely affecting the people around you. We are continuing to try new ideas as well as many of the old remedies to find out what works better in our garden.

With the continued push for more organic products, it seems the larger companies are starting to listen. When you buy products for your garden, ask for natural products, read the ingredients and warning labels. The more we push for safe products, the faster they will become available, the less pricey they will be, and the more widespread their use will become, thus eliminating more chemical usage.

Rose of the Month



LOVE, by Kay Tyler

This rose has always been special to me - my Mom got the bush as a Valentine's Day gift from my Dad in the early 1980's. It was a very romantic gift and impressed a very impressionable 10-year old at the time!

I moved this rose (along with a few others) to my own garden when my parent's house was sold a few years ago, and it seems pretty happy in the yard, next to 'Pristine'. They are my two 'big' roses, all the rest are shrubs and miniatures.

'Love' is a pretty bi-color Grandiflora. It has red petals with silvery white on the back side of each one. My climate is warm most of the year so the 30 - 35 petals have no problem opening for me. The rose also has a mild

fragrance on soft, moist days - very 'rosey'. The only drawback to 'Love's' embrace is the thorns - lots of them!

This rose was hybridized by William Warriner who worked for J&P. It was introduced in 1980 and won many prizes - notably the Portland Gold Medal for being an excellent rose in the test gardens in Oregon.

The bush blooms a lot with each bloom about 4 to 4 1/2 ". Sometimes the bush will give me a small spray of three blooms but it mostly blooms just one on a stem. The rose seems to be tough - it doesn't get any of the diseases I recognize - but it is only growing with one other rose, so maybe the diseases don't know where my yard is.

The rose brings back memories for me - so I prune it on Valentine's Day and make sure it is well and happy and ready for the Spring to come.

Photo courtesy of Sharon Kardos, 2007



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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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| Howard Jones | Virginia Beach | 757-481-4158 |
| Marti Youmans | Yorktown | 757-867-5566 |

Address Correction Requested

First Class Mail

Pruning Clinic, March 1, 2009, 2PM