



# NEWSLETTER

of the

## VIRGINIA PENINSULA ROSE SOCIETY

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

September 2009



visit our website "[www.vprs.org](http://www.vprs.org)"

### Meeting Dates 2009:

September 13  
October 4  
November 1  
December 6

### 2009 Meeting Hosts

Sep 6- Kostyal, Simpson  
Oct 4-open  
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

**A great teacher never  
strives to explain his  
vision – he simply  
invites you to stand  
beside him and see it  
for yourself.**

Rev. R. Inman

### “A Kaleidoscope of Roses”

The Richmond Rose Society  
is hosting the **Colonial  
District Fall Meeting &  
Rose Show** at the Lewis  
Ginter Botanical Garden in  
Richmond, VA  
**September 25 – 27, 2009**

Meetings will be held at the  
Holiday Inn West  
End/Crossroads

The next VPRS meeting is scheduled for **Sunday, September 13, 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.

### September 13, 2009

**2:00pm Board Meeting**  
**3:00pm Beginner’s Rose Show / General Meeting**

Refreshments by Virginia Kostyal and Lydia Simpson

### From the President’s Desk:

Greeting from soggy Mathews County!! What an interesting summer. So much rain..... My roses have been treading water many times this month!

I hope you all have had a great summer and have enjoyed beautiful roses. So far it looks like all of my bushes have survived the wet weather, but they are not very happy; not nearly the blooms I had last year.

I hope you all will be able to join us for our first meeting of the new year on September 13. Bob Little has organized a Beginner’s Rose Show so I hope you can bring a friend and their roses and we will introduce them to the world of showing roses. It should be fun!

I hope you also have on your calendars the Colonial District Fall Meeting and Rose Show on September 25 in Richmond. It looks like it will be a good meeting and you will be able to enter your beautiful fall blooms. It will be held at the Lewis Ginter Botanical Gardens. Please try to attend.

I look forward to seeing you all on the 13<sup>th</sup> and I want to hear all your monsoon stories!!

Sandy Pait

### From the Vice President’s Desk:

The Virginia Peninsula Rose Society is happy to announce ‘**A Beginners Rose Show**’, on Sunday, September 13, 2009, at the Woman’s Club, see directions above. The show has been designed especially for new rose growers and individuals who have not won a trophy at a rose show, but desire to learn more about how to prepare for rose show competition. Consulting Rosarians and Judges will educate you on the fundamentals of grooming roses for entry into a rose show.

Please bring in your large and miniatures roses to enter either in the Horticultural Division or in the Arrangement Division - its theme will be “Back to School.” Water filled vases will be provided; the roses will be judged and trophies will be awarded for best rose and best arrangement.

To RSVP call Robert Little 757.851.1140; Joy Long 804.642.4556; or Marti Youmans 757.867.5566.

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

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### **September 25-27, 2009 – Colonial District Fall Meeting & Rose Show**

Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden, Richmond, VA. Contact

### **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](mailto: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](mailto:cliff@clifforent.com); Hal Reynolds, Bob Martin, [petrose@aol.com](mailto:petrose@aol.com)

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## **The lovely Lady Banks**

I've heard of Lady Banks Rose being an easy to grow plant. What conditions does it need and do they get all the pests that other roses get like black-spot and aphids?

Karen L.

Lady Banks Rose, *Rosa banksiae*, is an easy to grow, hardy, evergreen climbing plant. It is thornless with some fragrance when in bloom. It should be planted in full sun to partial shade in well-drained soil. Once established it is very drought tolerant.. This plant can be so vigorous in some settings that it needs pruning to be kept within an allotted space. Lady Banks Rose is not prone to disease and insect pests like many other rose. It can be used for banks or areas in the landscape, to cover fences or trained on an arbor. When flowering, the entire plant is covered with small flowers in spring. There are double-flowering cultivars as well as singles and flowers are yellow or white. A double-flowered yellow cultivar is 'Lutea', 'Alboplana' is a double white cultivar. It's hardy in zones 7-8.

Excerpt from Virginia Gardener

## **GARDENING TIPS OF THE WEEK**

from Marie Iannotti

**Cleaning Up the Vegetable Garden:** When you clean up the vegetable garden in the fall just clip off or break off the beans, tomatoes etc just above the ground. There is no need to pull them - the roots will rot during the winter. I do it all season long and have never had a problem. *Submitted by Charlie—*

**Temporary Drip Irrigation:** Use old milk and juice jugs to drip water to your plants, when you're away on vacation. Just poke a few small holes in the bottom of the jug, fill with water and place at the base of plants. You can use them in the garden or in containers

**Keeping Varmints Out of Containers:** I have been a container gardener for many years due to moving around. Of course, many varmints, etc eat the plants from the bottom. Had a sliding door screen that I cut from frame and rolled on a pole. Cut piece just big enough to cover bottom, scrunch the square corners press down and fill pot to hold screen in place. Proceed with planting. Seems to work well. *Submitted by mthicalgal—*

I use dryer lint to line containers (that are usually recycled) and layer into soil. After drilling holes in whatever container I'm using I put down a decent layer of dryer lint at the bottom. It prevents soil from leaking out the bottom and also holds some moisture. It can also be layered into soil to hold additional moisture! *Submitted by MCBRECYCLE –*

## **FOR THE BEGINNER**

**Q:** What is a Climber, does it really climb?

**A:** A climber produces long canes that often reach 12 to 15 feet or more. These canes must be supported by a trellis, fence or wall to which it is necessary to tie them in order to maintain some semblance of order and beauty. The climber is not a climbing plant in the same sense as ivy or clematis is; that is, it does not fasten itself to its support by clinging tendrils. Nonetheless, in the rose family, this long-caned rose is a climber.

**Q:** What kinds of climbers are most popular?

**A:** Two kinds of climbers are in general use today – repeat-bloomers and ever-bloomers. The former, as its name implies, blooms in spring and again in fall; the latter flowers throughout the season. Climbers, unlike Hybrid Teas, Grandifloras, or Floribundas, which are bush types, do not produce flowers until the second year. However, some of the ever-bloomers will have a few flowers in the first season. Climbers are enormously vigorous, growing fast and filling a large area quickly.

**Q:** Are flowers on climbing roses good for cutting?

**A:** Flowers are generally well-formed and very numerous. Many varieties have stems long enough for good cutting.

**Q:** What is a Rambler Rose?

**A:** A large plant with smallish flowers, which blooms profusely once a season. Because it is not remontant (to bloom again) and has an invasive quality, Ramblers are particularly popular in the small garden.

**Q:** What is a Pillar Rose?

**A:** A sort of shorter, stockier Climber, with canes reaching eight feet or so in length.

# Consulting Rosarian Corner

## Hints for Successful Grafting and Budding

by Dr. Malcolm Manners

Reprinted from the January 1994 issue of The Cherokee Rose, as found on Paul Barden's website: <http://www.rdrop.com/~paul/graftingtips.html>

After Diann Giles' excellent and expert presentation on budding and grafting at our November meeting, I thought it might be helpful to provide some complementary pointers or "tips for success" for first time grafters or budders, and a couple alternative methods you may wish to try. So, the following is a slight modification of an article I wrote for the January-February 1991 issue of Fine Gardening magazine. It is printed here with the kind permission of the Taunton Press, publishers of Fine Gardening. The article was written for gardeners in general, not just rosarians, but the concepts and techniques presented are as valid for roses as they are for any other plant.

### **Grafting Basics: Advice and Methods for First-Time Success.**

As a college teacher of horticulture, one of the skills I have the privilege of teaching is how to graft woody ornamental plants and fruit tree species. I find that many people are fascinated by the idea of grafting plants and that many have attempted a few grafts in their own gardens. In most cases, such attempts have resulted in failure, leading to the idea that grafting is an exceedingly difficult process that most people simply don't have the talent to learn. I disagree with that idea; I find that most people can become proficient at grafting, once the common reasons for failure are understood. In this article, I hope to explain the most common errors committed by beginning grafters, and how to avoid them. "Grafting" is a process in which a part of one plant (e.g., a piece of stem) is surgically attached to a part of another plant (e.g., a root or a stem with roots). These parts grow together to form a single "grafted" plant. The part which will eventually grow to form the top of the plant, producing stems, leaves, flowers, and fruit, is known as the "scion" (pronounced "sighon"). Stems from which scions will be cut are called "budsticks" or "budwood." The bottom portion of the graft, which will produce the root system, is known as the "rootstock," "understock," or simply, the "stock." The point at which the scion and rootstock were joined and healed together is the "graft union" or "union." "Budding" is merely a type of grafting in which the scion is quite small, consisting of just one axillary bud (from the point on a stem just above where a leaf was attached), and a small shield of bark. The mere fact that a plant is grafted does not make it better than a non-grafted plant. Rather, it is the fact that a superior, selected scion was attached to a root system ideally suited to its growing conditions, which makes the grafted plant superior. With rooted cuttings or air-layers, you also get a selected cultivar, but these methods don't allow for any selection of the root system. The production of grafted plants requires more skilled labor and considerably more time than are involved in producing plants from seeds or rooted cuttings, so grafted plants are usually more expensive than those produced by other means. Still, there are good reasons to graft some plants. I'll list a few, here:

- 1. Grafted plants are usually more uniform** in their growth habit, flower color, flowering season, fruit size, shape, and quality, etc., than seed-grown plants. If you planted seeds from a 'Golden Delicious' apple, the resulting trees would produce fruit of varying types but none of them would bear 'Golden Delicious' fruit. Grafted trees, using scions cut from a 'Golden Delicious' tree, would all produce typical, 'Golden Delicious' apples.
- 2. They often begin to flower or bear fruit much sooner** than plants grown from seeds. In the case of some fruit tree species, you can save several years of waiting time, through grafting. This is because seedlings of most woody plant species have a juvenile period, during which they are unable to flower or bear fruit. Even if you don't grow your own trees or shrubs from seeds, nursery-grown plants of many species are seedlings. A good example would be the southern magnolia (*Magnolia grandiflora*), which is nearly always sold by nurseries as seedling trees. Gardeners who buy such trees have to wait 5-10 years for the first flowers to appear, after the tree has grown quite large. On the other hand, grafted trees usually flower the first year after grafting, often while still in a 1-gallon pot. Apple trees behave in a similar manner; seedling trees may take many years to begin to bear fruit, but grafted trees will bear when quite young. The reason for this difference is that in a grafted plant, the scion is cut from an old, mature tree. The scion physiologically "knows" that it is mature, and continues to behave as a mature stem (flowering and fruiting), in spite of the fact that it is now part of a small, grafted plant.
- 3. Grafting a plant allows you to select a root system adapted to your climate** and soil, or resistant to local pests and diseases. **THIS IS THE MAJOR ADVANTAGE OF GRAFTED ROSES IN FLORIDA.**
- 4. Some rootstocks produce extreme vigor** in the scion. Others may cause the scion to be dwarfed.
- 5. A skilled grafter can propagate more species or varieties**, often with better success, than could be accomplished by rooting cuttings or air-layers. Because of these advantages, most fruit and nut tree species are commonly grafted, including apples, pears, peaches, plums, cherries, citrus, some grapes, walnuts, pecans, and avocados. Some woody

ornamental plants are also commonly grafted, including blue spruce, some magnolias, most roses, gardenias, camellias, and tree peonies. Grafts are usually most successful between members of the same species (apple on apple, peach on peach). Some plants can be grafted onto other species in the same genus (oranges on lemon roots [both genus *Citrus*] peaches on plum roots [both genus *Prunus*], or nearly any rose species or hybrid on any other species or hybrid [all in the genus *Rosa*]; or much less commonly, to another genus in the same family, such as orange on trifoliolate orange roots (genus *Poncirus* but still in the citrus family, *Rutaceae*). Grafts between different plant families (orange on apple roots, grape on walnut roots) usually don't form a union at all and in any case, never survive long enough to make a desirable plant.

### **Tips for Successful Grafting:**

**1. Use a sharp knife.** A grafting knife needs to be literally razor-sharp. I test my knife by shaving some hair from my arm. If it won't shave cleanly, the knife isn't sharp enough. (Don't test a properly sharpened grafting knife with your thumb, or you may need sutures!) We have our knives sharpened professionally at a local shop, and I frequently touchup the edge with a leather razor strop. A dull knife will almost guarantee failure at grafting. You can use nearly any style of knife but I would recommend one designed specifically for grafting. These knives are honed on only one side, leaving one side flat. With such a blade, it is easier to make a very smooth cut in a woody stem. Because of the one-sided edge on grafting knives, they come in right- and, left-handed models. Be sure you have the correct type for your dominant hand.

**2. Budsticks should be collected** from young but firm stems of the plant you want to graft. I like to use stems which are no longer succulent, having produced some wood. For roses, the stems are at an ideal stage for grafting when the flowers are fading and dropping their petals, but before the buds have swollen for the next growth flush. For many fruit trees, the most recent growth flush can be used, after it has hardened. Some recalcitrant species graft best if the wood is cut just as the buds are beginning to swell for a new growth flush. Budwood should immediately have all the leaves removed, to avoid wilting. Wilted budwood usually won't make a successful graft union. Place the sticks in a plastic bag with a few drops of water, a damp paper towel, or a bit of moist peat moss, and seal the bag. If left in the sun, the wood may die within minutes, but in a shady, cool spot, it should last several days. Budsticks of many plant species can survive for several months in the refrigerator, if kept moist.

**3. Rootstock plants can be grown from seeds**, or may be rooted from cuttings in some cases. ['*Fortuniana*' rootstock for roses is virtually always produced from cuttings.] They should be well-watered for several weeks before and after grafting. As with wilted scions, wilted rootstocks often result in failed grafts.

**4. When cutting the wood**, use your entire knife blade: Start at the base of the blade, moving out to the tip in a single, sweeping cut. This results in a smoother cut than you would get by whittling, sawing, or pulling a single spot on the knife blade through the entire scion or rootstock cut. Splinters, bumps, or other imperfections in the cuts will tend to prevent a good match of scion to stock, and will reduce your success rate.

**5. Unprotected cut surfaces may dry out** in a matter of seconds, preventing a good graft union from forming. So, it is important to make your cuts, match them together, and wrap the graft as quickly as possible. I like to wrap a graft within 5 to 10 seconds of the time I start to cut the wood. Beginning grafters tend to hurry, ending up with a splintered, bumpy cut, or they take far too much time making smooth cuts.

But they find it difficult to make perfect cuts quickly. The only remedy for this problem is practice. I usually use roses when teaching beginning grafters, and I take long canes of a climbing variety to class for practice grafting. The students cut scions from the canes and reattach them elsewhere on the same cane, pretending that it is a rootstock stem. They can make 10 or even 20 practice grafts on a long stem, without feeling pressured by the knowledge that their grafts will fail if they don't hurry. When they've become adept at making good cuts, they throw the practice wood away and move on to a "real" scion and rootstock. No precious rootstock plants or scions have been wasted, and they are remarkably better (and faster) grafters than they were, 15 minutes earlier. I would suggest that if you try this method, practice on the species you intend to graft. If you are budding roses, don't practice on apple wood, which has an entirely different feel to it, under your knife.

**6. In addition to working quickly**, you can prevent the cut surfaces of your scion from drying by making those cuts first, then storing the scion cut-side-down on your tongue while you work on the rootstock. Of course, scions of toxic species or plants you've recently sprayed with an insecticide shouldn't be placed in your mouth, but most commonly grafted plants are harmless. I use this trick with roses, citrus, and magnolias (which taste bad!). Commercial citrus budders often cut large numbers of scion buds at once, storing them in their cheeks for later use. Saliva is harmless to the buds and doesn't seem to promote rotting or other problems for the graft.

**7. Cut surfaces should not come in contact with the soil** which contains rotting organisms. Unless scions are in scarce supply, it is usually wise to discard any that were dropped on the floor.

**8. I wrap grafts with 1/2-inch, clear polyethylene budding tape** (not gummed). The wrap should be quite firm, stretching the tape almost to the point of breaking. Another wrapping material, which has gained popularity in the last few years, is parafilm, which is a very stretchy, waxy material, originally developed for sealing laboratory glassware. It has the advantage of not having to be unwrapped later, as does tape, since the growing scion will eventually stretch and split the parafilm. Also, if you stretch it correctly, parafilm sticks to itself, making it unnecessary to tie off the end of the wrap. Plastic tape must be tied securely.

**9. In warm weather**, I usually leave a graft wrapped 3-6 weeks, depending on the species being grafted. If callus tissue has developed on all the cut surfaces, the graft is probably ready to be unwrapped. (Callus is the wound-healing tissue of the plant, and looks like a small blob of white or pale tan spongy material.) In cold weather, grafts should be left wrapped longer. Fall-grafted plants may be left wrapped until spring, in colder climates. There are many methods of budding and grafting from which to choose. Two of my favorites are veneer grafting and chip budding. Veneer grafting is more likely to be successful than are most other methods, especially with difficult plant species. It is therefore a good method to use when learning to graft. In this method, a thin strip of bark is removed from the side of a rootstock plant. Rootstocks can be slightly thinner than a pencil, to slightly thicker than your thumb. The scion is a short (3 inch) twig. The bark is removed from the entire length of one side of the scion, and the cut side is placed against the rootstock cuts, aligning the cambium layers, which are located just beneath the bark. Chip budding is really just a type of veneer grafting, but uses a tiny, one-bud scion. This "chip" of bark replaces a similar chip, removed from the rootstock stem. Once you've mastered veneer grafting, chip budding is quite easy to learn. The big advantage of budding is that you can produce two or three times as many plants from the same amount of budwood as you could by veneer grafting. Both methods can be used at any time of year but I think the best time would be about a month before you want the scions to begin active growth.

-----*CUT HERE*-----

**Gardens-in-a-Flowerpot will offer bare-rooted roses to members of TRS and VPRS for \$14 plus tax. These roses will arrive mid-February 2010, you will be called to pick them up at Gardens-in-a-Flowerpot, Norfolk.**

Dream Come True	_____	Grandiflora, golden yellow edged and blushed with ruby
Easy Does It	_____	Floribunda, mango, peach and apricot blend, AARS 2010
Elle	_____	HT, shell pink and ivory bi-color
Gemini	_____	HT, cream to blushing cream
Gold Medal	_____	Grandiflora, golden yellow suffused orange
John F Kennedy	_____	HT, greenish white
Memorial Day	_____	HT orchid pink
Midas Touch	_____	HT, bright neon yellow
Monkey Business	_____	Floribunda, yellow
Mister Lincoln	_____	HT, velvety deep red
Olympiad	_____	HT, spotlight red
Oregold	_____	HT, deep yellow gold
Peace	_____	HT, lemony yellow edged pure pink
Perfume Delight	_____	HT, deep rose pink
Pope John Paul II	_____	HT, white
Queen Elizabeth	_____	Grandiflora, clear pink
Radiant Perfume	_____	Grandiflora, medium yellow
Sedona	_____	HT, red, coral and orange
Signature	_____	HT, pink blend
St Patrick	_____	HT, yellow gold, shaded green
Sweetness	_____	Grandiflora, lavender
Veteran's Honor	_____	HT, dark red
Welcome Home	_____	HT, light yellow

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone # \_\_\_\_\_

Please return your orders to George Wilson (853-0621) by November 1. You will pay for the roses when you pick them up. If you have any questions call George.

## Rose of the Month



### Lavaglut

by Don Zoromski, CR

Of course! It is a German name for 'Lava Glow' and is a dark red Floribunda with an American Rose Society rating of 8.7.

I now have 11 "Lavagluts" in pots that are along my driveway and in front of my house (with more to come).

What I like best about "Lavaglut" is its almost constant blooming with large sprays of 10 to 12, 2 1/2 inch flowers. The petals are dark red in color. The blooms hold on the bush for about 2 weeks and then just dry up, rather than fall. It takes a high wind or hard rain for them to fall to the ground. "Lavaglut" is a fast repeater in my garden.

The *American Rose Society Encyclopedia of Roses* describes "Lavaglut" this way:

- ? Origin - [Gruss an Bayern x Seedling]
- ? Scent - Light
- ? Height/Spread - 2 1/2 ft., 2 1/2 ft.
- ?

"Lavaglut" is a perfect small red floribunda, healthy, floriferous, and a glorious color. There is nothing to match the large sprays of deep, dark flowers set off by dark glossy leaves. The flowers open out neat, flat and full of petals. The golden stamens are usually visible at the center, they last a long time in their clusters of 10-12 flowers.

This rose will shrug off both heat and rain. The plant is vigorous. The leaves start bronze green before turning darker and greener. It is a good exhibition rose and lasts a long time as a cut flower.



**Virginia Peninsula Rose Society**  
**Editor**  
**10 Rose Lane**  
**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

Helen Hill	Hampton	757-851-6057
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

**Next Meeting.....September 13, 2009**